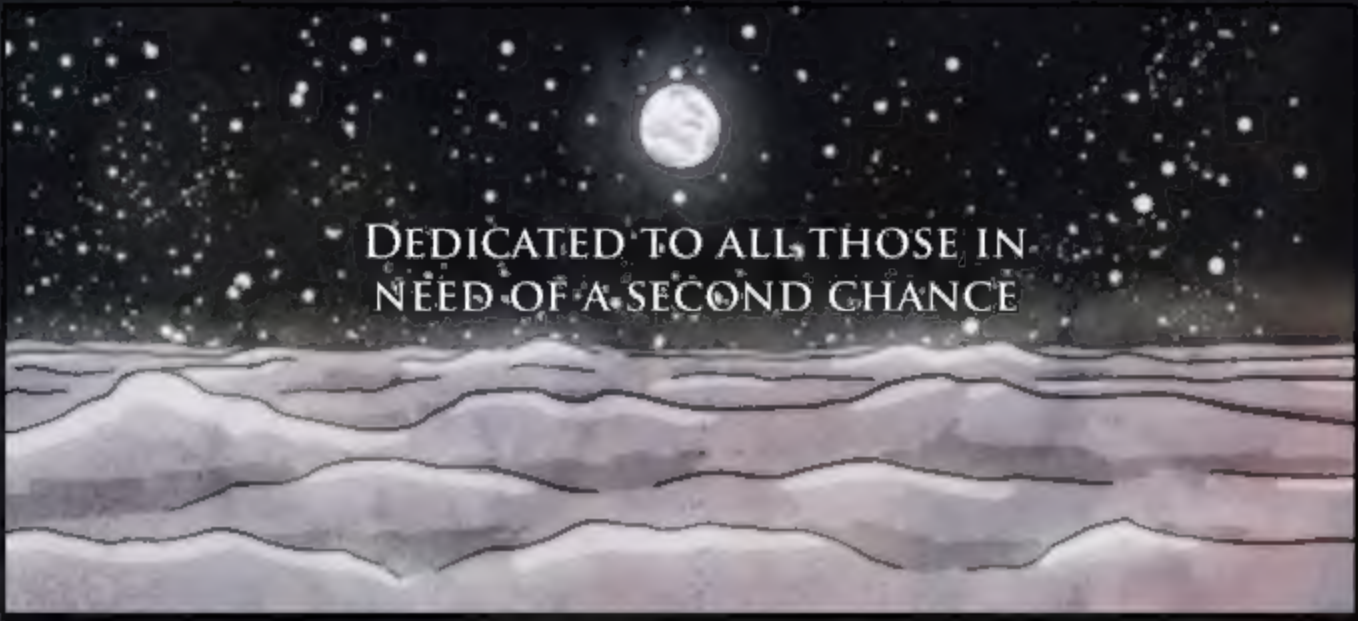




PLUSH AND BLOOD PRESENTS

A STORY BY COREY "TIREDORANGECAT" MESSER

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE
THAT BELIEVED IN ME



DEDICATED TO ALL THOSE IN
NEED OF A SECOND CHANCE



THERE ARE NO ENDS
ONLY BEGINNINGS



MEMORY'S THREADS





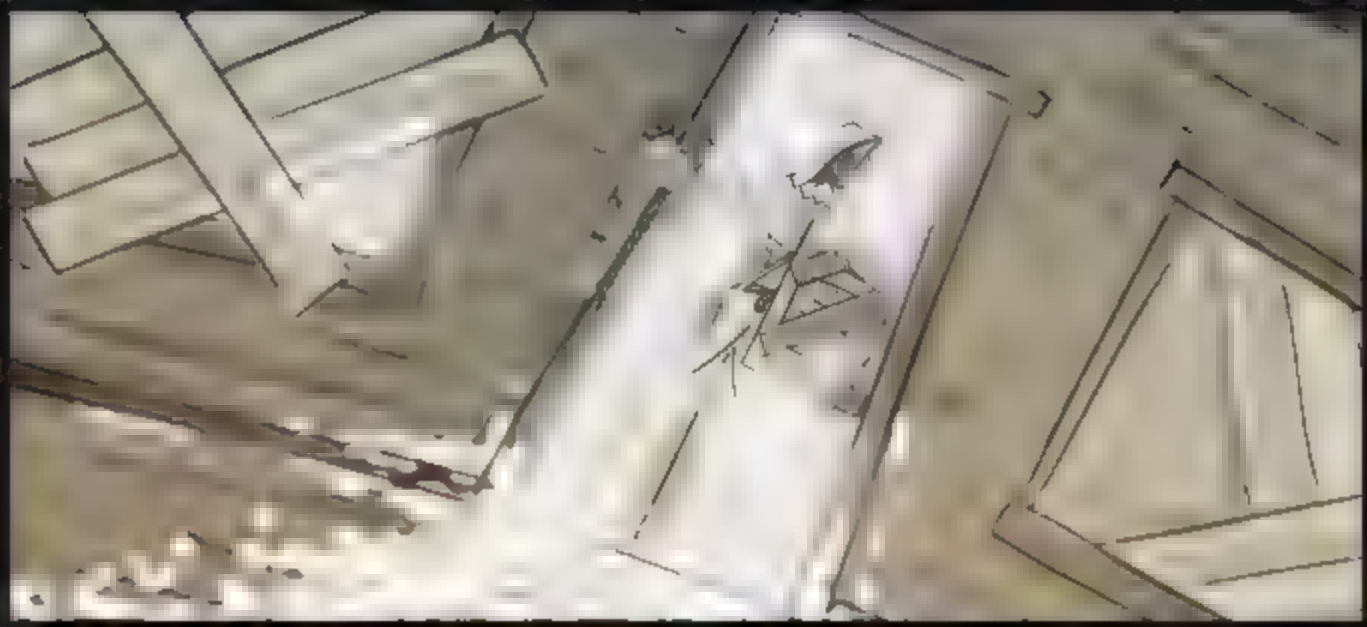


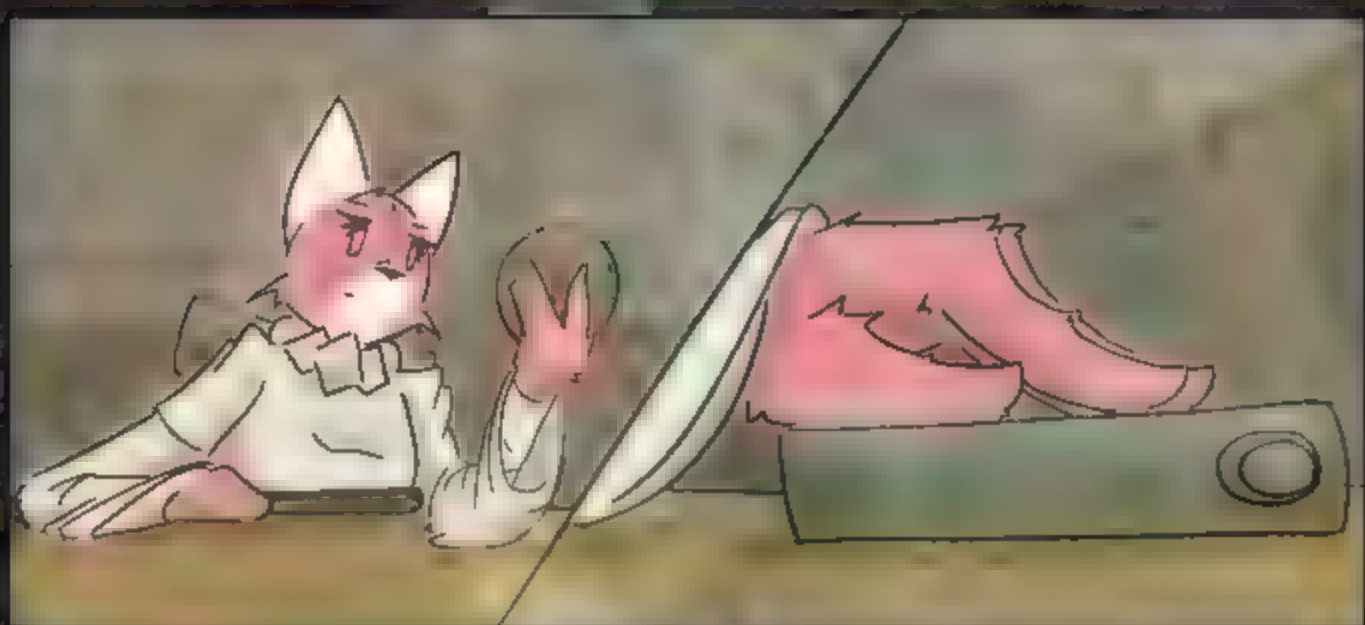














THREE CANTEENS
OF WATER.

TWO WITH
A LOAF OF HARD BREAD
AND HALF POUND OF WHATEVER
PROTEIN YOU HAVE
LYING AROUND



DONE,
IT'LL BE A FEW
MINUTES.

PERIN!
TWO CANTEENS OF WATER
AND A DAY RATION FROM THE
BACK YOU HAVE MY WORD
ON MY LIFE IT
WILL BE DONE

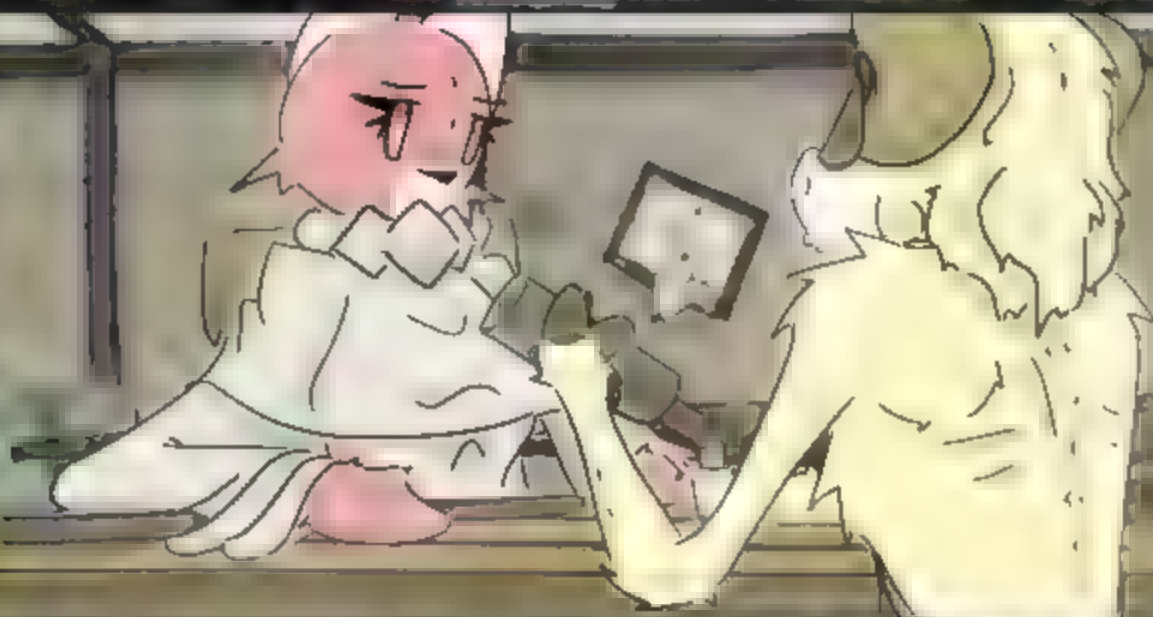


MY WORD
ON MY LIFE I'LL
BE HERE.

NOW THAT THE
BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED
THERE'S ANOTHER HALF A POUND
OF MEAT FOR ITS STORY THAT AIN'T NO
HOME BREW, THAT IS THE REAL
DEAL, AGED SINGLE
MALT WHISKEY.



FOUR NIGHTS AGO
I CAME ACROSS THE TAIL OF
A LARGE GROUP OF
CONVOY UP NORTH

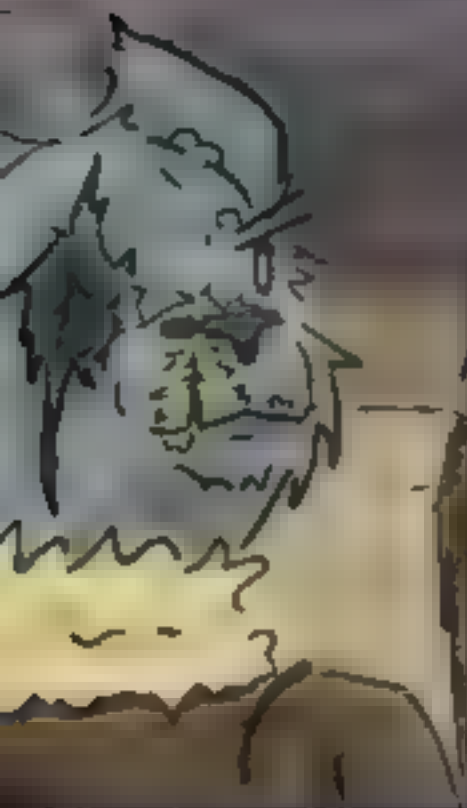


THEY WERE IN
A HURRY, FOR WHAT REASON
I DO NOT CARE. I FOLLOWED THEM
FOR A STRETCH OUT
OF CURIOSITY



THEY CAME ACROSS
AN OLD CHIMNEY AND SENT
TWO TO INVESTIGATE WHILE THE MAIN
GROUP CONTINUED ON. NORMALLY I WOULD
NOT HAVE PAID ATTENTION TO THE TWO
BUT AS THE TRAIN LEFT THEY
FOUND A CELLAR

THE CONVOY DID
NOT STOP THAT IS
UNLIKE THEM.



THEY WERE HEADED SOUTH
WEST AS FAST AS THEIR PACE WOULD ALLOW
THEY WERE LONG GONE BY THE TIME I GOT TO THE CELLAR.
THE TWO THEY SENT TO SNIFF IT OUT, I FOUND HALF WAY
THROUGH THEIR SECOND BOTTLE OF THAT. THEY PROBABLY HADN'T
ANYTHING TO EAT IN THE LAST FEW DAYS BY THE LOOKS
OF THEM. SCRAWNY, FILTHY AND
DEAD DRUNK.

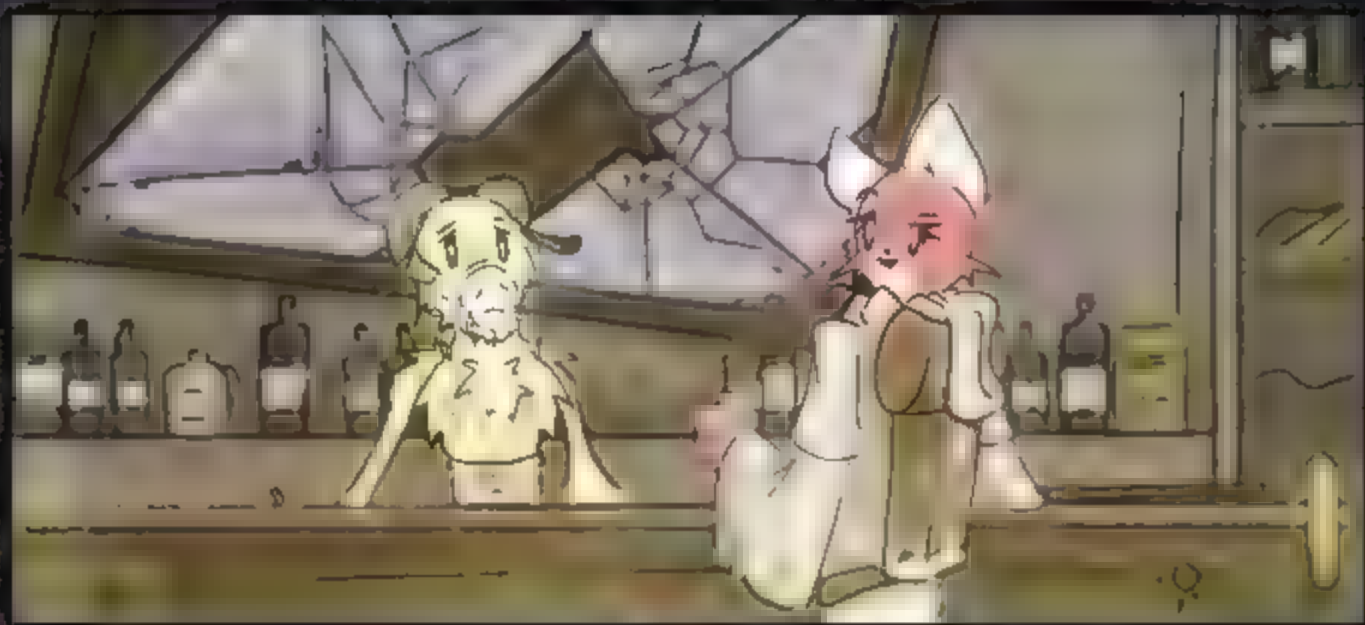
SHRUG

THEIR NECKS
WERE EASY ENOUGH
TO SNAP

YOU WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO REMEMBER
THIS CELLARS LOCATION?

I DON'T
BELIEVE THIS TOWN
HAS THAT MUCH
TO OFFER

SOUNDS
LIKE A LOAD OF
BULL TO ME



IN FACT,
HOW DO WE KNOW
YOU'RE NOT JUST A CONVOY
SPY SENT OUT TO
SIZE US UP?



YOU CALLING
ME A LIAR?





I SAY YOU
AIN'T EXACTLY BEEN
TRUTHFUL ABOUT
THINGS.

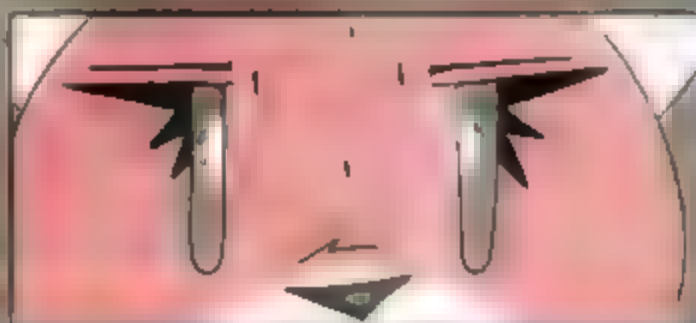


WELL I TELL
YOU WHAT I'M NOT
GOING TO KILL YOU, BUT WHAT
I AM GOING TO DO WILL MAKE
YOU WISH YOU WERE DEAD.



BOLD WORDS FROM
A WASTE LEACH. I WILL KILL YOU,
NOT FOR BEING A LIAR AND A THIEF, BUT
FOR BEING A CONVOY SCOUT I BET
I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO TOUCH YOU
BEFORE YOU ARE POLISHING
MY HOOF.

WELL IF THAT'S
THE CASE I BET YOU THAT
YOU WILL BE EATING FLOOR AND
LICKING THE ASH FROM MY TOES
BEFORE THIS GLASS HITS
THE GROUND









THIS WAS A
FAIR FIGHT WITH NO
WEAPONS INVOLVED, IF ANYONE
THINKS I HAVE CHEATED THIS MAN STEP
FORWARD NOW OR HOLD
YOUR PEACE.



HAVEN'T SEEN
ANYONE MOVE THAT
FAST IN YEARS.
YOU HAVE A NAME?

NOPE.

I AIN'T GONNA
USE IT AGAINST YA, AND I
DOUBT ANYONE HERE WOULD REMEMBER,
BEGGIN' YOUR PARDON
MA AM.

DON'T HAVE
A NAME. PEOPLE JUST
CALL ME KATT

CATT

YES.

WELL CAT,
YOU SEEM TO KNOW
YOUR P'S AND Q'S AND PROBABLY
KNOW THE SCORE BETTER
THEN I.

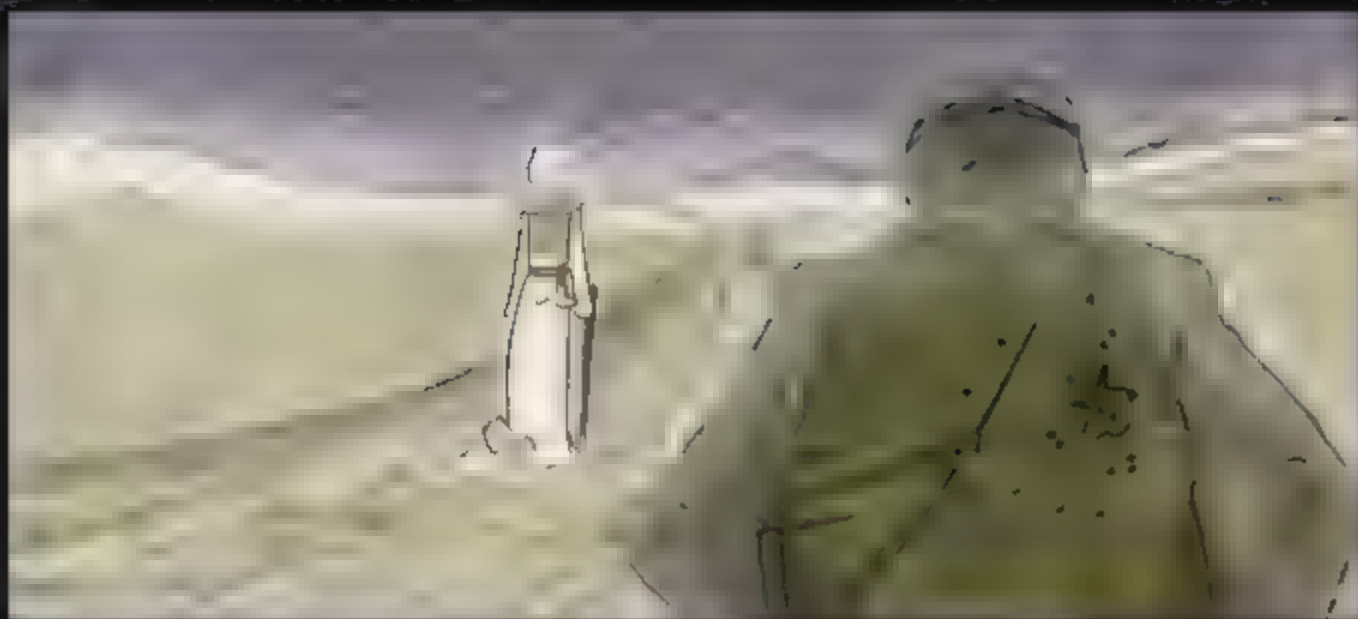


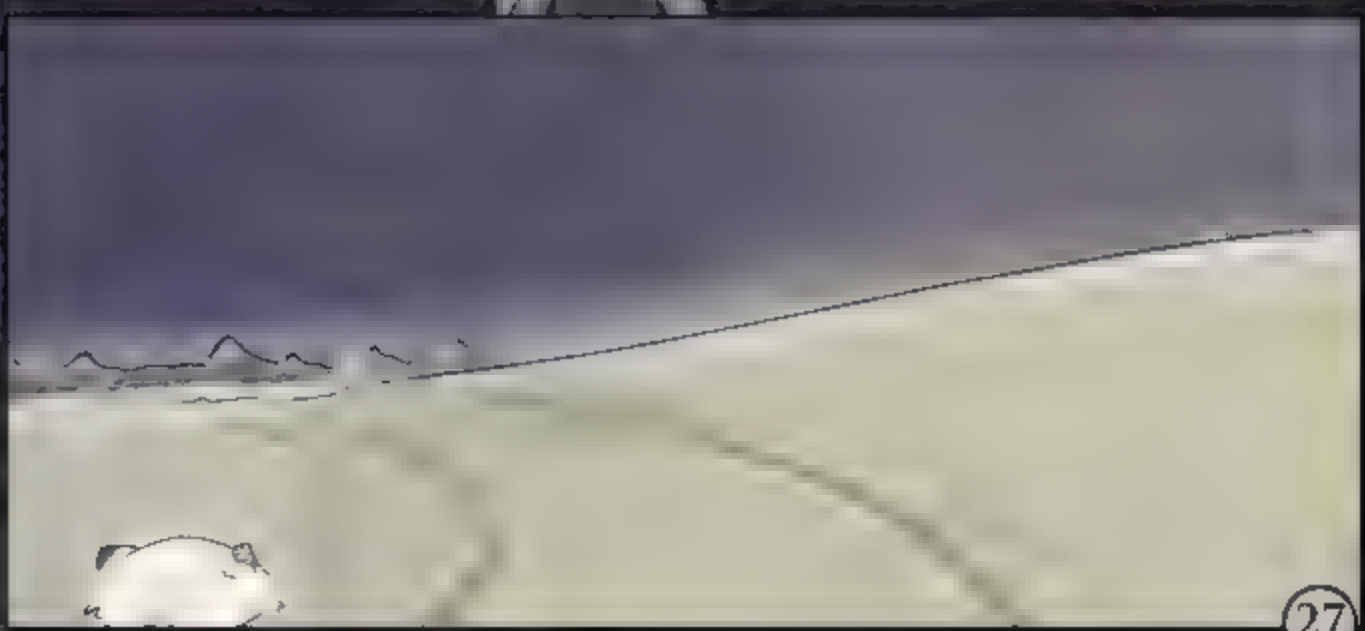
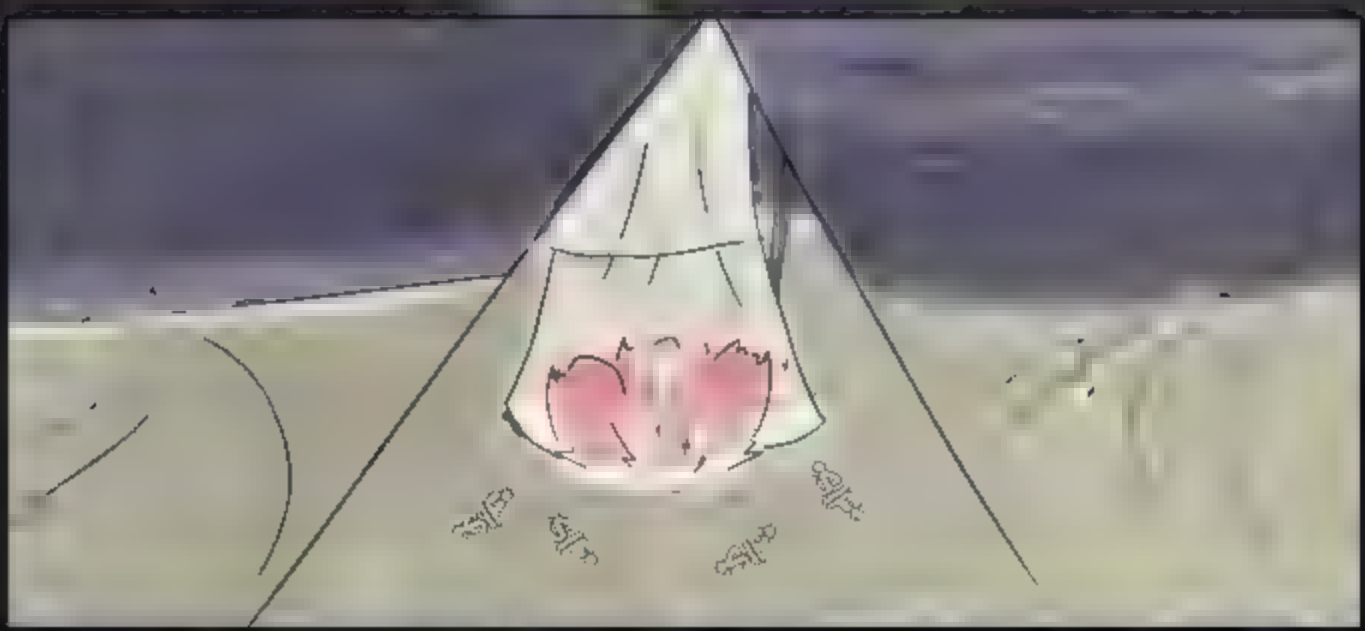
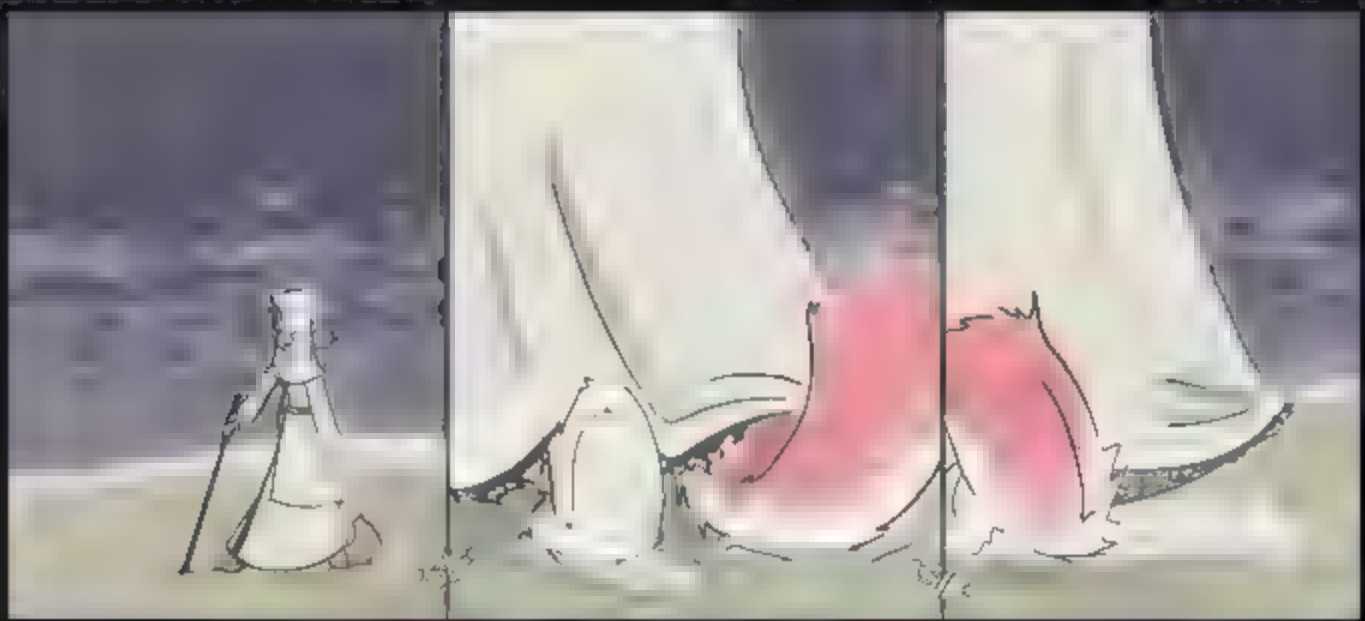
YES MA AM.

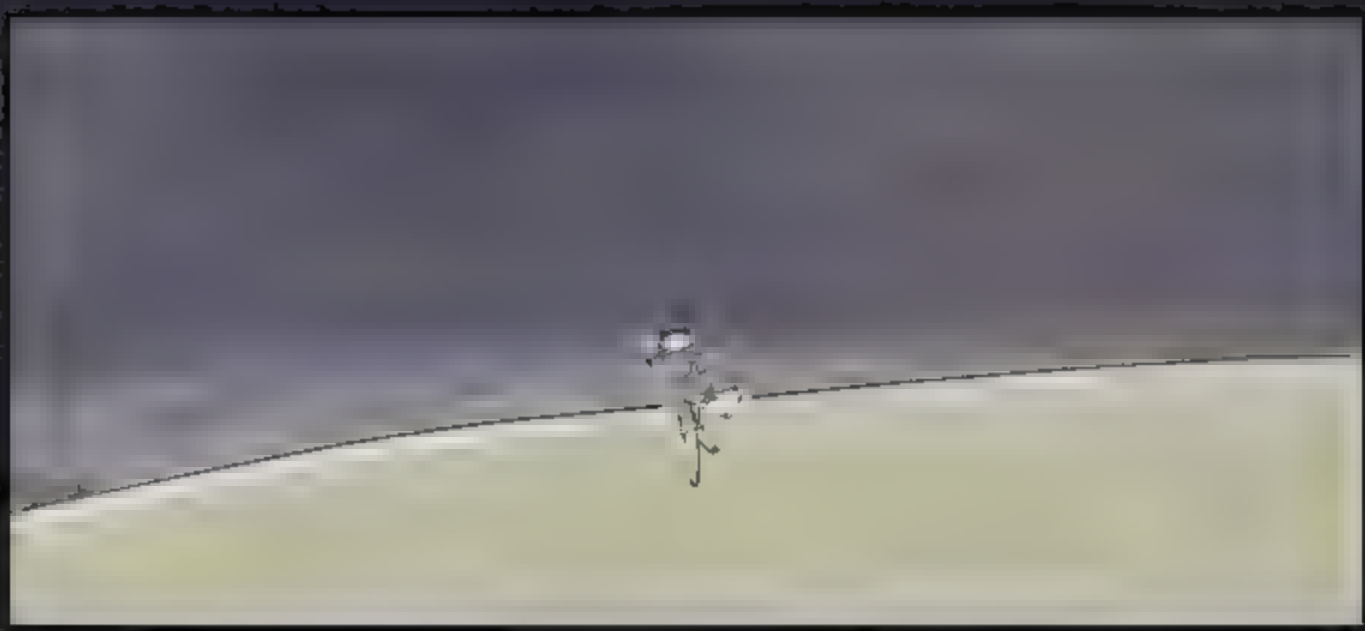
GOOD DAY
TO YOU 'KEEPER

GOOD DAY CAT,
BE SEEN YOU AROUND

NOT IF YOU'RE LUCKY



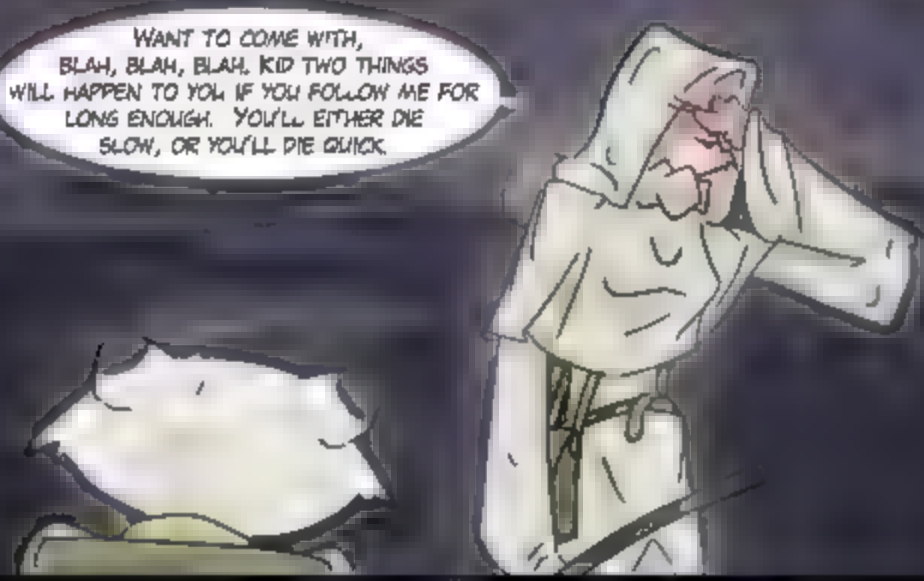




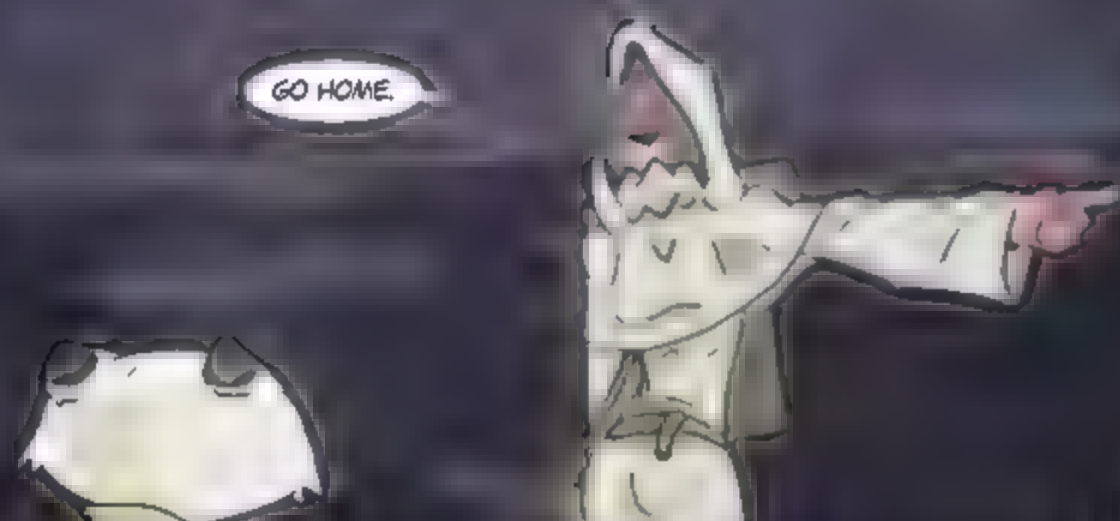




I... I SAW
WHAT YOU DID IN THE
WATERING HOLE. I..

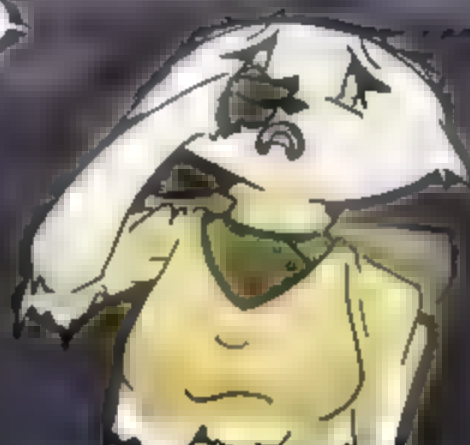


WANT TO COME WITH,
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. KID TWO THINGS
WILL HAPPEN TO YOU IF YOU FOLLOW ME FOR
LONG ENOUGH. YOU'LL EITHER DIE
SLOW, OR YOU'LL DIE QUICK.



GO HOME.

I DON'T
HAVE A HOME,
MY...



I KNOW ALL
THE SOB STORIES KID. MY
PARENTS WERE KILLED, CAPTURED, RAN
AWAY, OR EATEN. YOU ARE A STARVING ORPHAN
WHO'S GOING TO GET HER TAIL RUBBED
RAW AT NIGHT. CUT THE
SHIT KID. GO AWAY



LOOK
I HAVE MY OWN SUPPLIES
AND EVERYTHING.



THEN YOU'LL
MAKE IT BACK TO THE TOWN
FAT AND SMILING.



I WON'T BE A BOTHER, L..





YOU WANT YOUR
PURSE BACK? HERE

NOW GO AWAY.



PLEASE YOU
CAN HAVE MY PURSE AND
SUPPLIES, I -



KID YOU
DON'T EVEN KNOW
WHO I AM.

YOU'RE A WOMAN,
A LONE WOMAN!
THAT'S...

ENOUGH OF
THAT HORSE SHIT SEX
HAS NOTHING TO DO
WITH IT, GO-

BUT, BUT
YOU'RE STRONG, FEARLESS,
AND YOU COMMAND RESPECT!
MEN FEAR YOU.



I'M AFRAID OF
EVERYTHING. I AM A WEAK
KITTEN IN A WORLD OF MONSTERS
THAT WOULD EAT ME. SHIT I'M EVEN
AFRAID OF THE DARK.
GO AWAY



YOU KNOW WHAT
SOMEONE TOLD ME ABOUT THE
DARK... YOU ONLY FEAR THE DARK
BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S IN IT



YOU GOT IT ALL
WRONG KID. I KNOW EXACTLY
WHAT IS IN THE DARKNESS, AND
THAT SCARES THE HELL
OUT OF ME.





THE CONVOY?

FUCK THE
CONVOY, THEY ARE AN
UNORGANIZED BAND OF WANNABE
MONSTERS. THEY ARE NOTHING, THEY
ARE TIMID KITTENS COMPARED
TO THE MADNESS I'VE
SEEN OUT THERE.



THEY... THEY EAT
PEOPLE. I... I CAN'T
IMAGINE WORSE THINGS
THEN THE CONVOY



THAT'S RIGHT
YOU CAN'T

NOW GO AWAY.



I CAN'T GO
BACK TONIGHT, I'LL GO IN THE
MORNING. PLEASE.

YOU THINK
I'M THAT DENSE KID?

NO BUT
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF
THE MONSTERS IN
THE DARK.



YOU DON'T
KNOW THAT KID, YOU DON'T
KNOW ANYTHING.





THANK YOU

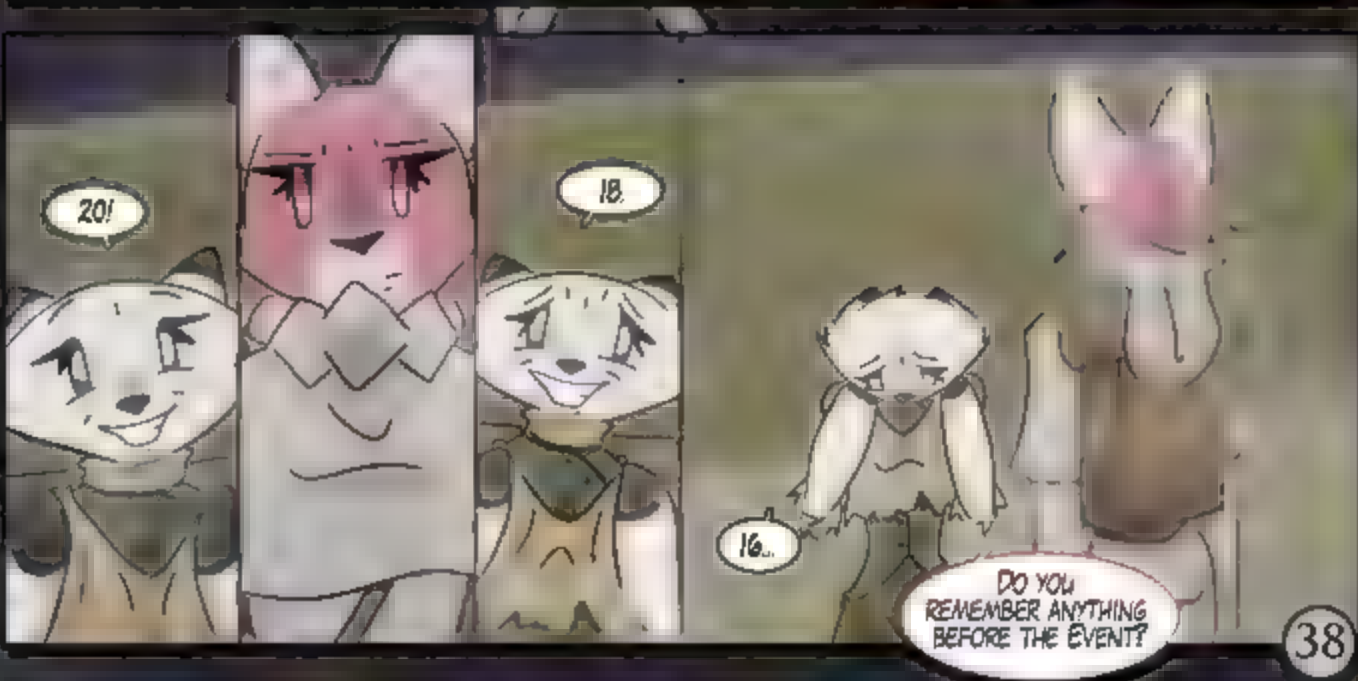
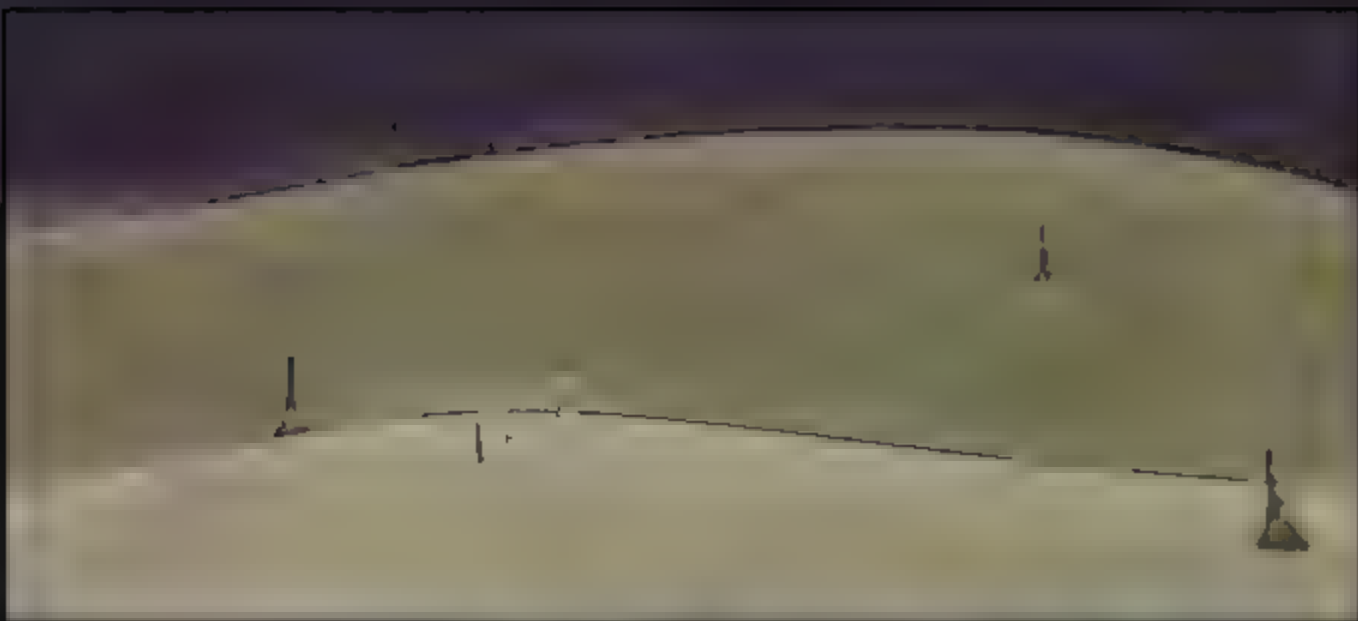
DON'T THANK ME
KID, I'M A BASTARD JUST
LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.



SO I WASN'T
STRUNG UP IN THE
TOWN SQUARE.

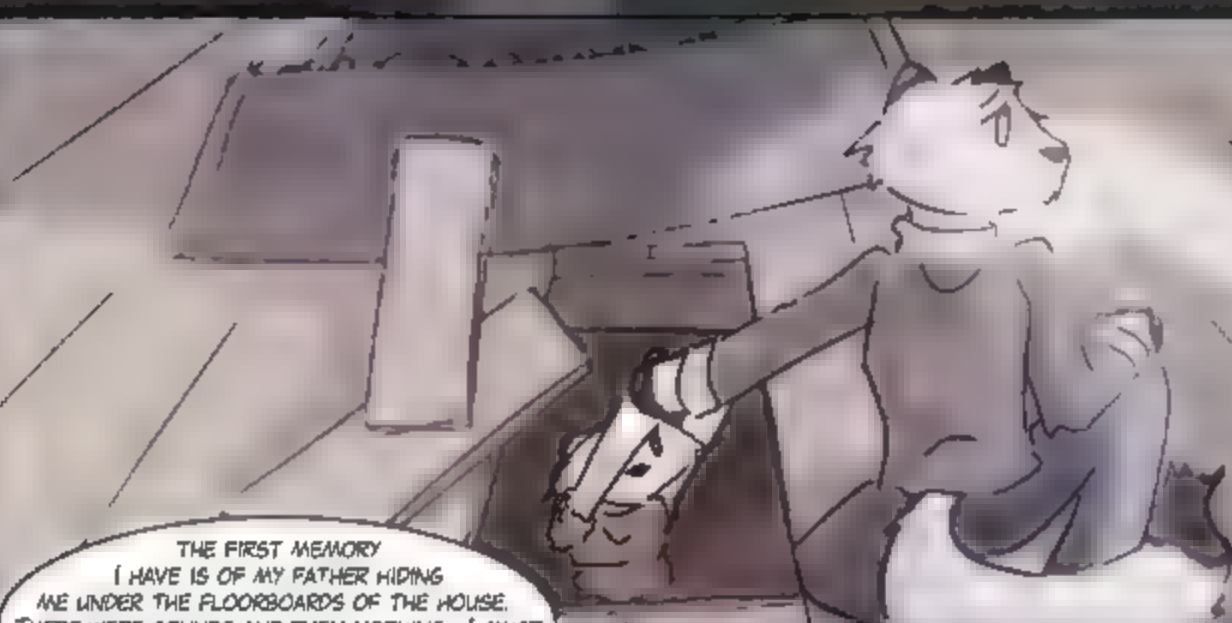
YOU SPARED THAT DRUNK.

OH.





NO...



THE FIRST MEMORY
I HAVE IS OF MY FATHER HIDING
ME UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS OF THE HOUSE.
THERE WERE SOUNDS AND THEN NOTHING. I MUST
HAVE LAY THERE FOR A DAY BEFORE I CRAWLED
OUT THE HOUSE WAS A WRECK
AND HE WAS GONE.

PROBABLY AROUND THE
EARLY DAYS OF
THE STRUGGLE.



I NEVER SAW HIM AGAIN.

YOU WON'T.



SF
S/E

IN THE EARLY
DAYS OF THE STRUGGLE,
PEOPLE WERE TAKEN INTO
"INDENTURED SERVITUDE" TO WORK
THE OIL FIELDS BEFORE
THE PLAGUE WAS
UNLEASHED.



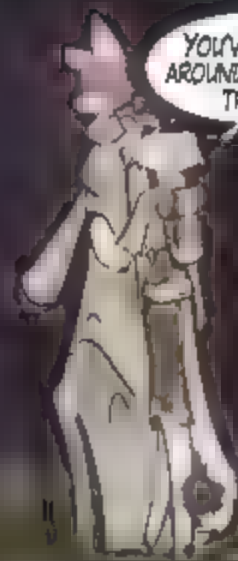
S/E

SF

S/E

SF

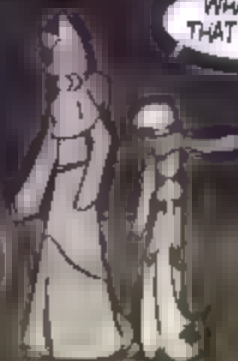
YOU'VE BEEN
AROUND A WHILE
THEN?



SINCE THE
BIRTH OF THE WORLD.

WHAT ABOUT
THAT FOR CAMP?

RULE SEVEN KID,
IF YOU PLAN TO STOP FOR
THE NIGHT NEVER DO IT IN
AN OBVIOUS PLACE.



SF

S/E





WE'LL
CAMP HERE.

OUT OF THE WIND

IN A DITCH.



PEACHES?
WHERE DID YOU GET
PEACHES?

I'VE GOT
CANNED PEACHES,
DRIED MEAT, B-



NICKED A FEW
FROM WALTERS CELLAR
A WEEK OR TWO BACK.

SO YOU'RE A THIEF



IF IT'S NOT
NAILED DOWN I CAN HAVE IT
IF IT SUITS MY FANCY.



YOU DIDN'T
DO SO WELL THIS
MORNING.

YOU ARE NOT
LIKE THE REST.
YOU SEE THE
WORLD.

EVERY CHARRED
AND BROKEN ATOM.





WHO ARE YOU?

KID IF THERE'S ONE THING YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS NIGHT LET IT BE THE FACT THAT QUESTIONS CAN GET YOU KILLED FASTER THAN ANY BULLET OR BLADE.

SORRY.

AND DON'T APOLOGIZE.

HOW MUCH FOR THE PEACHES KID?

THEY'RE YOURS IF YOU WANT THEM.

HOW YOU SURVIVED THIS LONG I MAY NEVER KNOW. THE SECOND LESSON IS FREE. NEVER GIVE ANYTHING TO ANYONE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. THERE IS NOT A WHOLE LOT LEFT ON THIS SCORCHED ROCK. WHAT THERE IS WILL NOT BE FREE. EQUALTRADE IS THE SIGN OF THE TIMES.

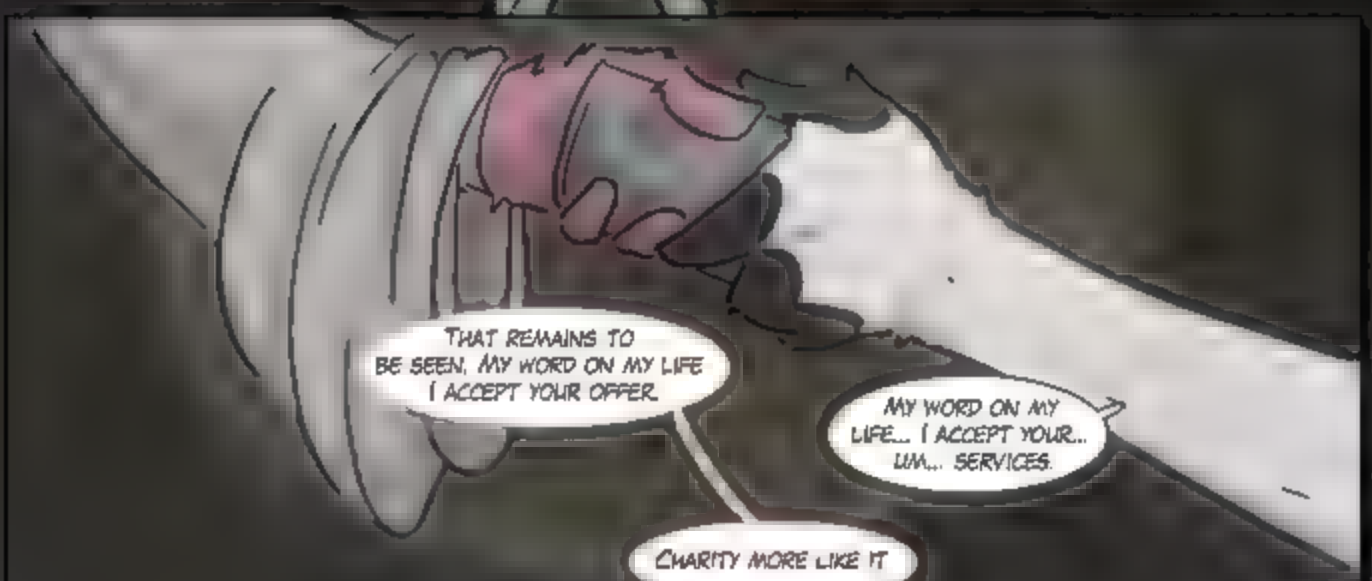


THEY'RE YOURS
IF I CAN FOLLOW YOU TO
THE NEXT TOWN.



YOU MIGHT
NOT BE AS STUPID AS
YOU LOOK KID.

AND YOU'RE NOT
AS MEAN AS YOU PRETEND
TO BE... I THINK



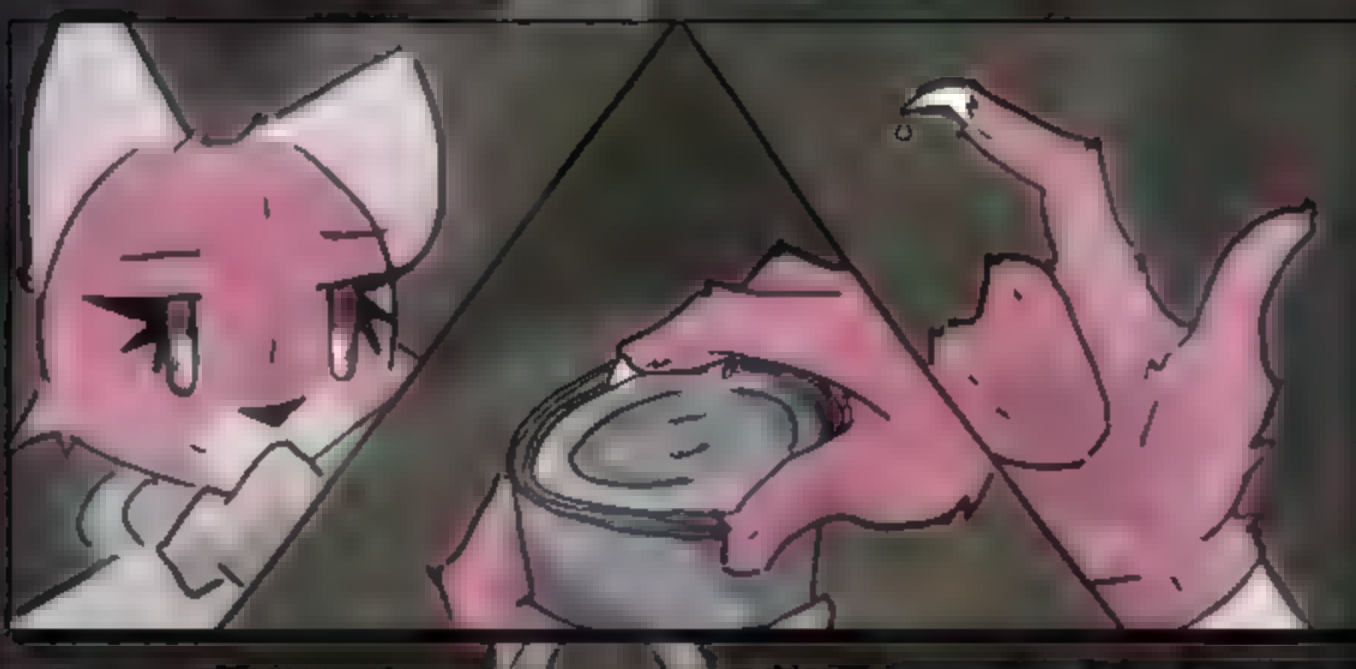
THAT REMAINS TO
BE SEEN, MY WORD ON MY LIFE
I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.

MY WORD ON MY
LIFE... I ACCEPT YOUR...
UM... SERVICES.

CHARITY MORE LIKE IT



I DON'T HAVE
A CAN OPENER





YOUR CLAWS MUST BE A LOT STRONGER THAN MINE



SOMETHING LIKE THAT



THANK YOU.



SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND KID?



YOU... YOU SAID YOU HAD NO NAME IS THAT TRUE?

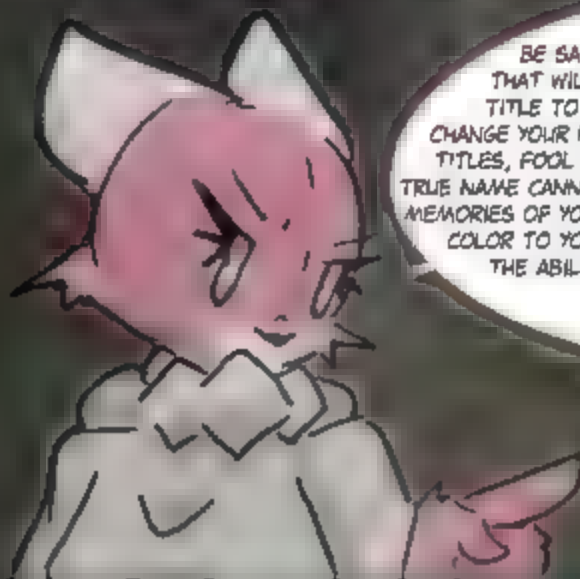
YES.



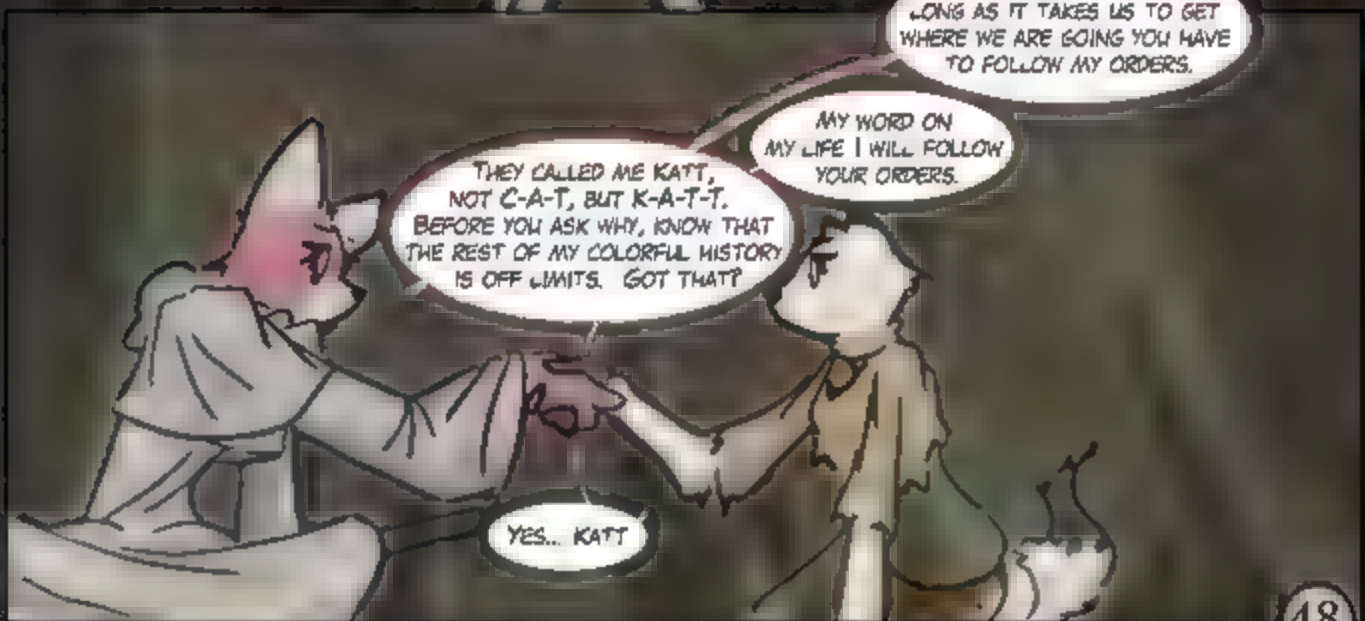
I DON'T
KNOW MY NAME.

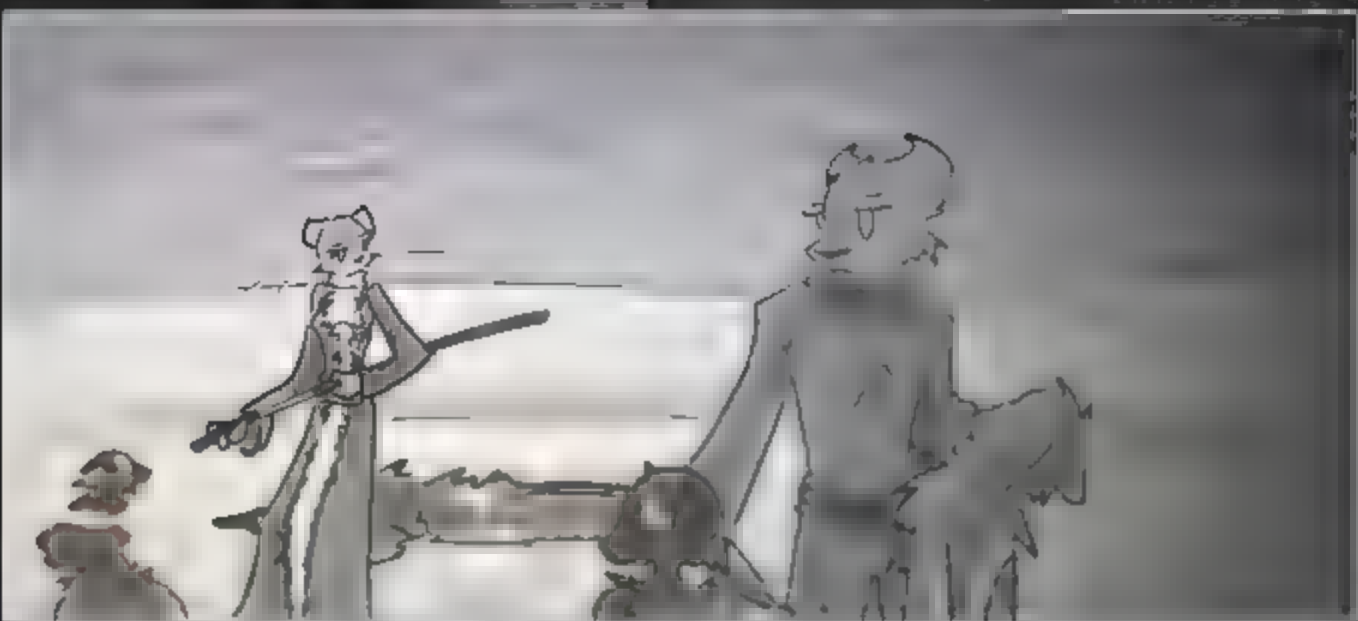
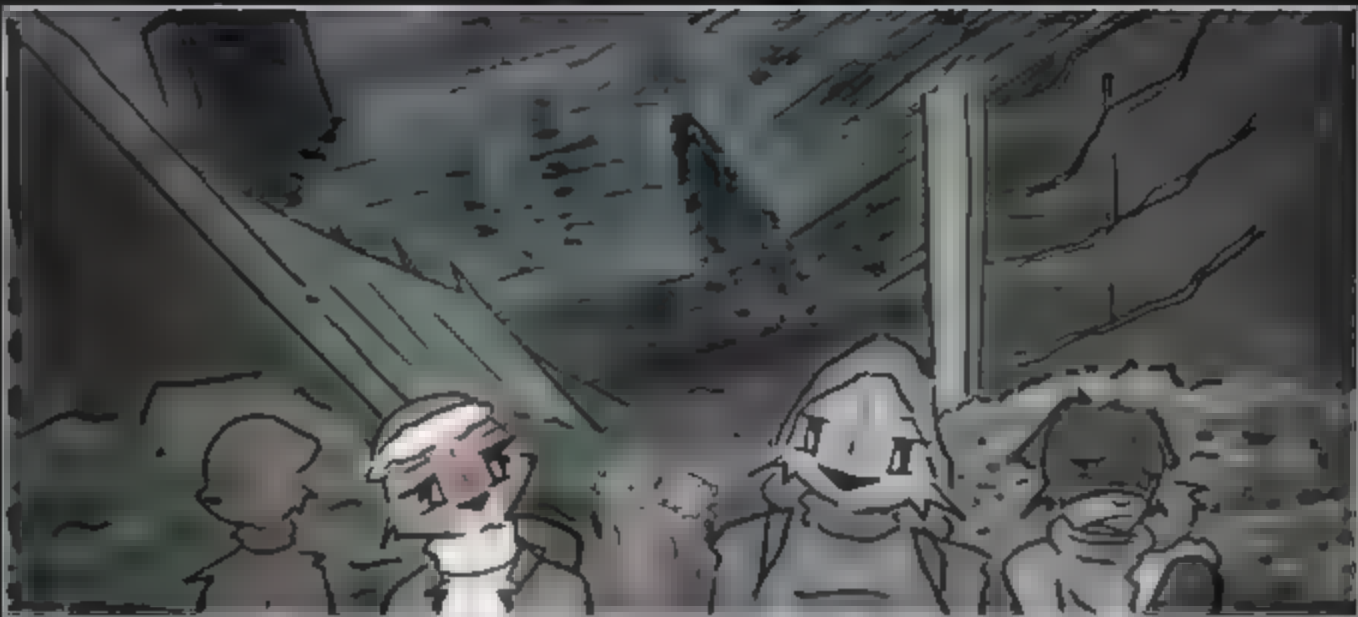
I WISH I DIDN'T
HAVE A NAME.

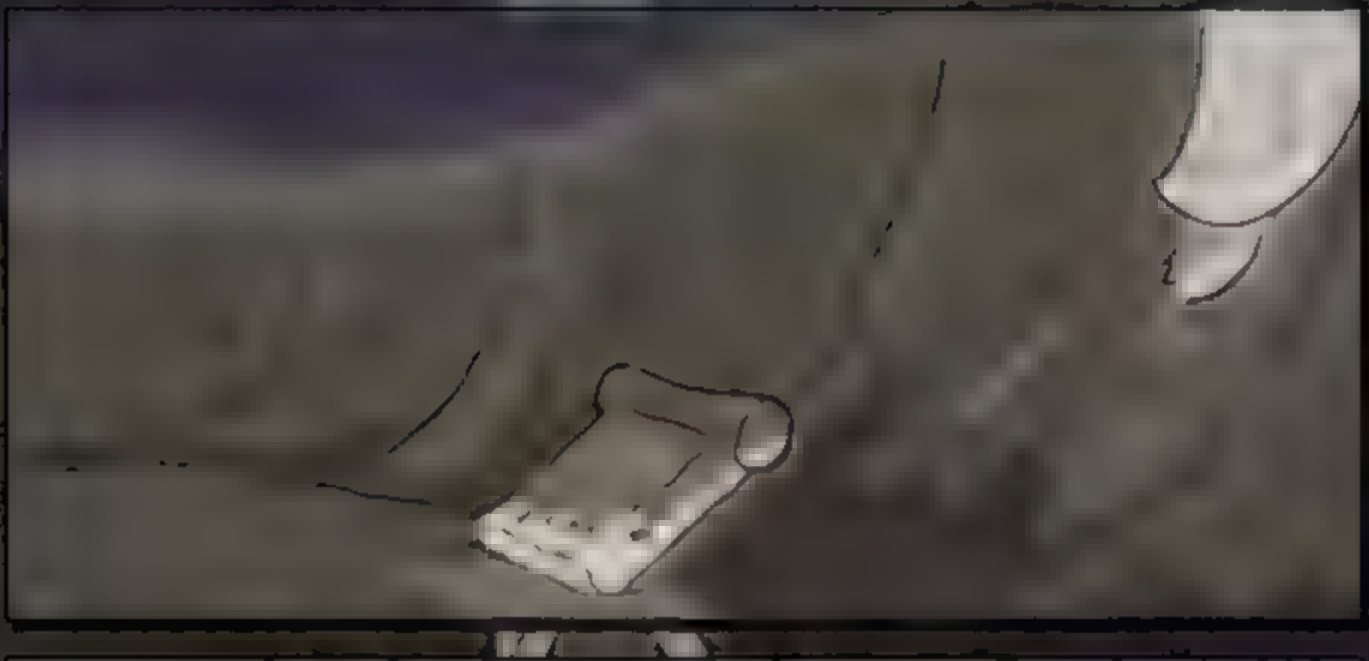
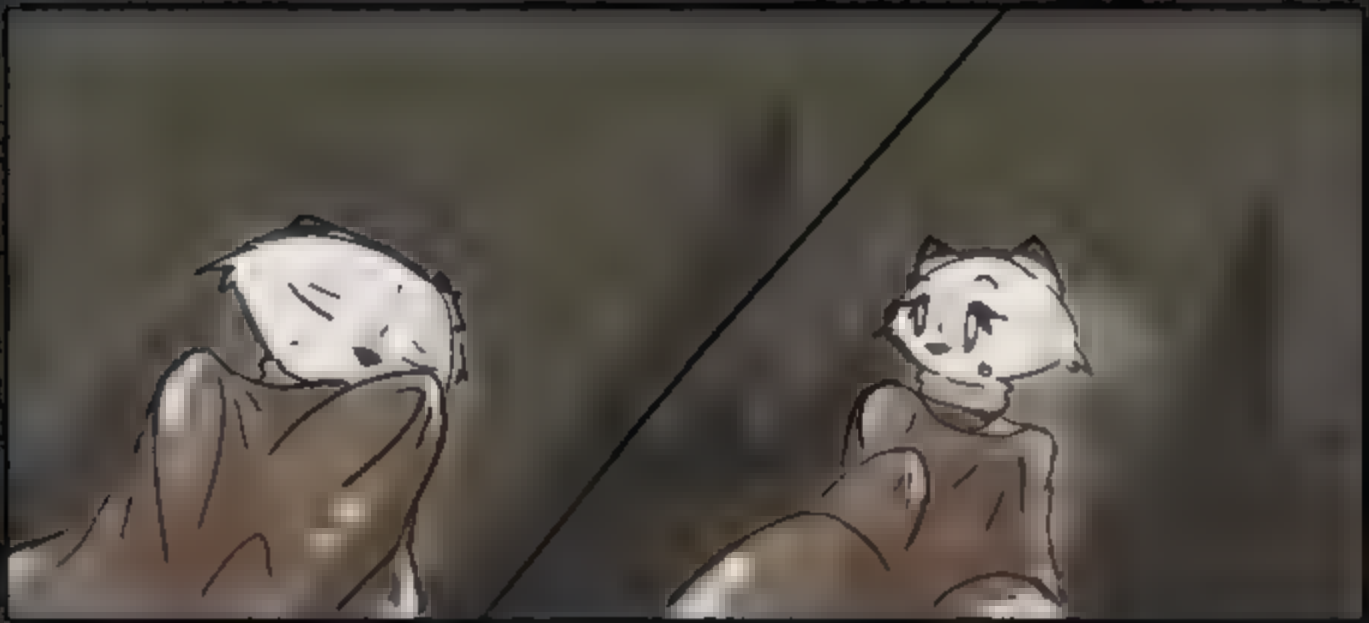
ALL I HEAR WHEN
ANYONE SAYS IT IS MY FATHER
TELLING ME NOT TO COME OUT OF
HIDING NO MATTER WHAT

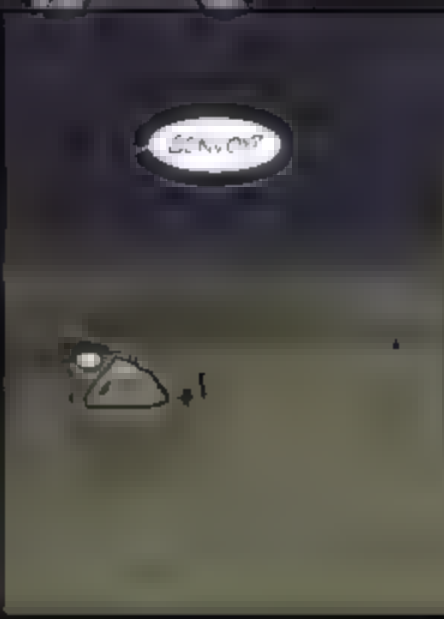
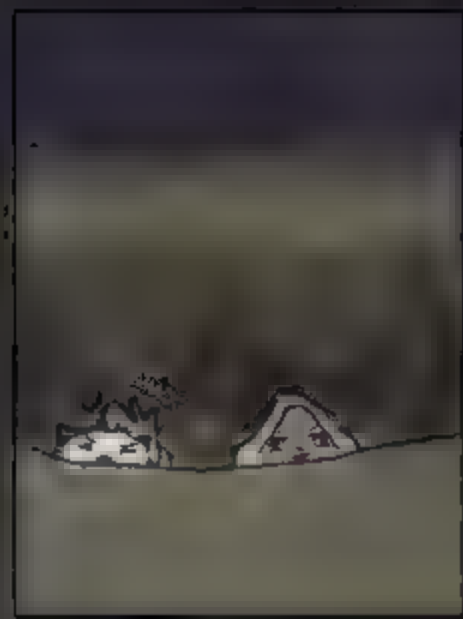


KID THERE'S SOMETHING TO
BE SAID ABOUT A NAME. IT IS THE ONE THING
THAT WILL ALWAYS BE YOU IN THE UNIVERSE. YOUR
TITLE TO YOUR GLORIOUS BEING AND LIFE. YOU CAN
CHANGE YOUR NAME, ASSUME A MASK, GRANT YOURSELF FALSE
TITLES, FOOL MILLIONS, BUT YOU WILL ALWAYS BE YOU. YOUR
TRUE NAME CANNOT BE ERASED, IT'S WHAT BOUNDS YOUR SOUL. THE
MEMORIES OF YOUR LIFE, EXPERIENCES OF YOUR YEARS, ALL ADDING
COLOR TO YOUR NAME. IT IS SOMETHING TO BE CHERISHED
THE ABILITY TO CALL OUT TO THE UNIVERSE ABOVE,
I AM SALLY!
DO NOT DAMN THE NAME.







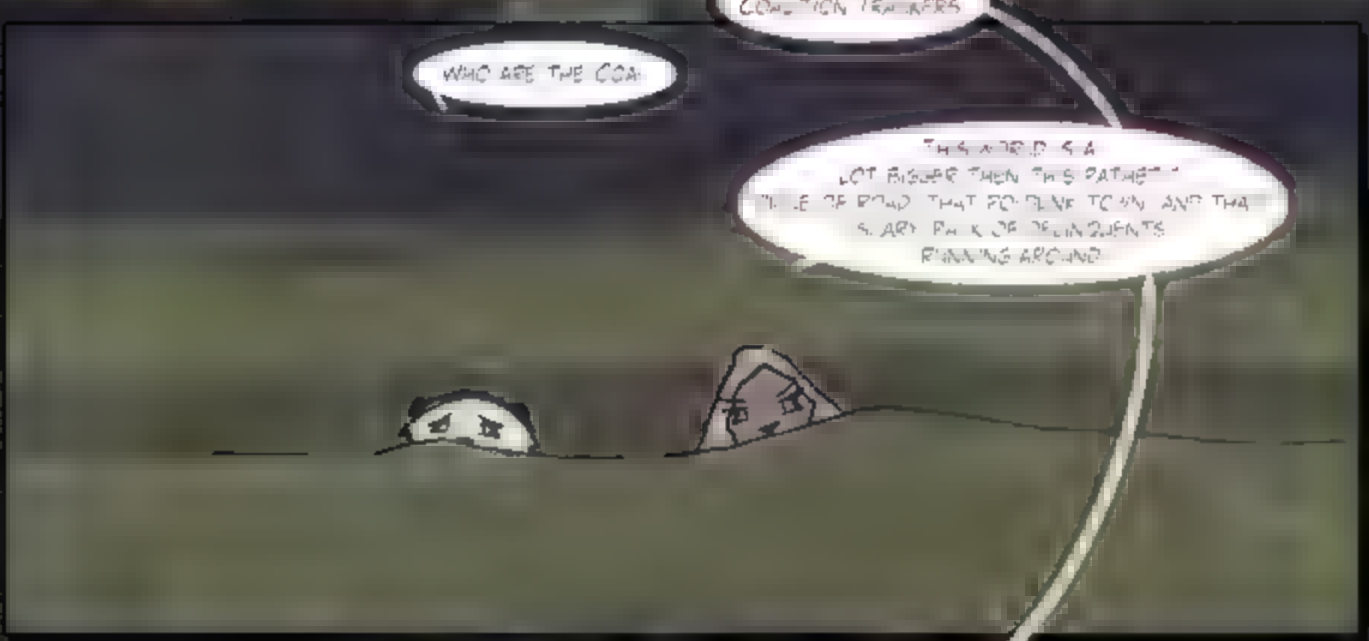




WORSE
CONVICTION TRACKERS

WHO ARE THE COA-

"THIS WORLD IS A
LOT BIGGER THEN THIS PATH"-
"THE END ROAD THAT LEADS TO VIN AND THE
SLARY PARK OF DELINQUENTS
RUNNING AROUND"



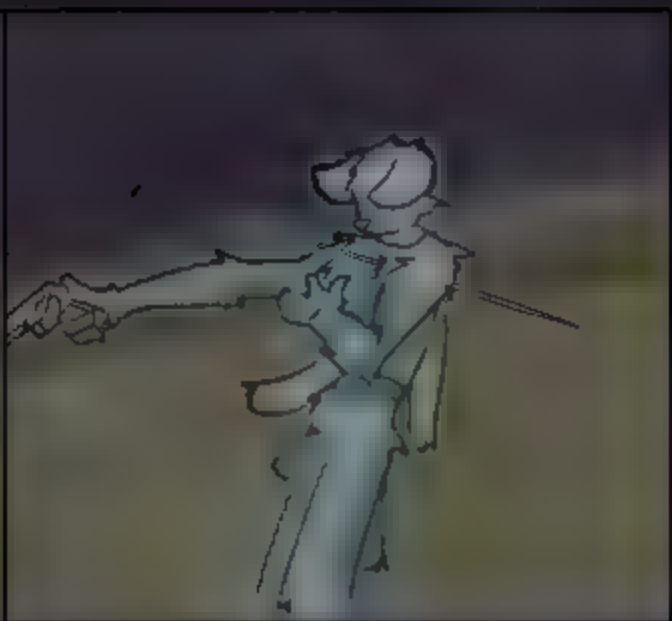
"HEY YE PL. KEE
UP A GUN" WE HAVE
TO MOVE



SKRRRRRRRRRR

TOO LATE.







MOVE YOUR
CARCASS, WE HAVE
TO GO.

BUT SHOULDN'T
WE SEARCH TH-



DO NOT TOUCH
THEM OR ANYTHING ON THEM.
THEY ARE ALL TAINTED WITH A SPECIAL SCENT
THAT ALLOWS THEM TO TRACK EACH OTHER.
GET IT ON YOU AND I'LL
GUT YOU MYSELF



SMACK

RUB THAT UNDER
YOUR ARMS AND BETWEEN
YOUR LEGS.

WHAT?

DO IT!

GIVE ME THAT

I NEED A BATH.



WH-EWWWWW



THEY KNOW ME,
THEY DON'T KNOW YOU.
YOUR SCENT WILL FADE IN A DAY
OR TWO MINE WILL END HERE.
IT WILL TAKE THE NEXT
CREW TIME TO PICK
ME BACK UP

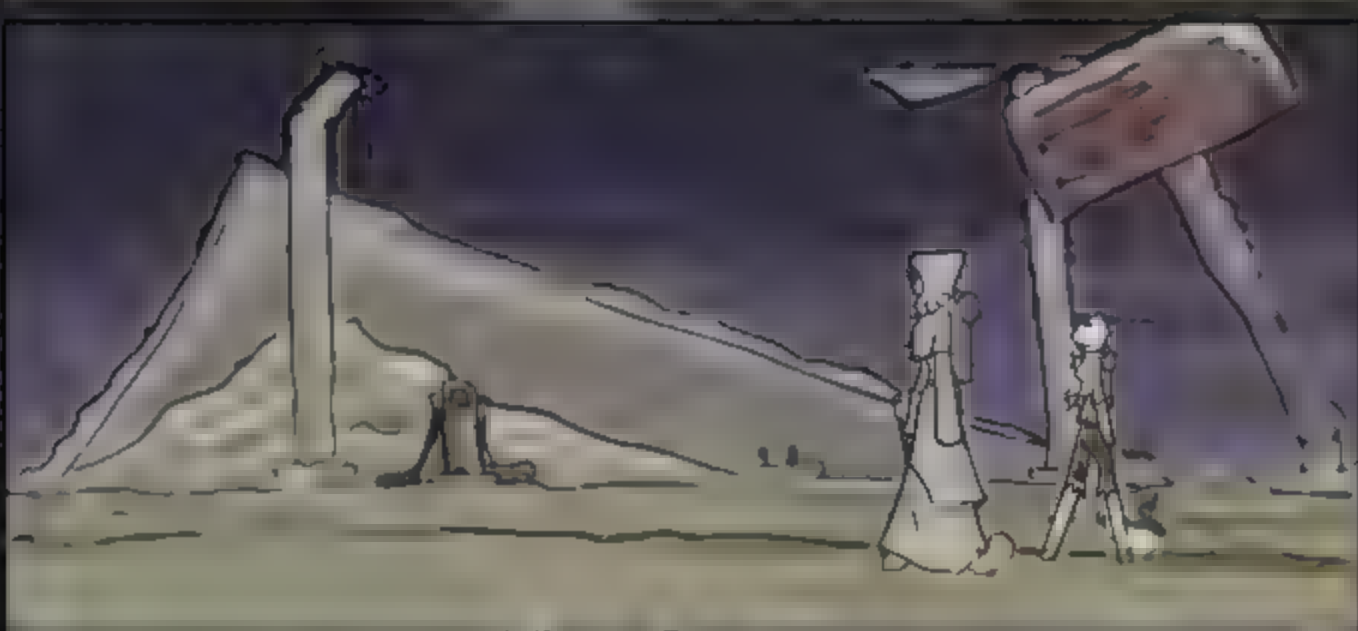


OH...
OH! THAT'S GENIUS!



IT'S SURVIVAL KID.





KATT
CAN I ASK YOU A
QUESTION?

ONLY IF YOU
UNDERSTAND THERE ARE CERTAIN
THINGS I WON'T ANSWER.

WELL YOU LAUGHED
WHEN I THOUGHT THE CONVOY WERE
THE WORST THING EVER. BUT NOW
YOU SEEM TO BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT
THESE COALITION PEOPLE THAN
YOU ARE THE CONVOY.

WERE THEY THE
MONSTERS YOU WERE
WORRIED ABOUT?

THE ONES THAT
TOOK MY FATHER?

THOSE PISS ANTS
WISH THEY WERE MONSTERS,
AND THEY'D LEAD YOU TO BELIEVE
THEY ARE THE RULERS OF HELL.
YOU REMEMBER THE SLAVERS
I TALKED ABOUT?

SURE

WELL THEY ORIGINALLY
STOLE PLUSH TO WORK THE OIL
FIELDS TO KEEP THE FUEL RUNNING.
BACK THEN THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE
CHILDREN OF LIPTOPIA. THAT IS UNTIL THE
OIL THEY WERE PULLING OUT OF THE
GROUND BROUGHT SOMETHING WITH
IT. SOMETHING MORE ANCIENT
THAN ANYTHING ON THIS PLANET
CAN REMEMBER.

A PLAGUE INFECTED
NEARLY EVERY SLAVE WORKING
THE FIELDS. ON TOP OF THAT THE
EVENT HAD PUNCHED A
HOLE IN THE SKY.

THE BURNING SNOW.

TEN YEARS LATER AND IT'S STILL FALLING. WELL, THE CHILDREN OF LUTOPIA COLLAPSED, THE CIRCLING OF THE DRAM ENDED AND THE WORLD LET OUT ONE LAST BREATH BEFORE DYING. EVEN WITH THE DEATH OF THE WORLD THE CHILDREN OF LUTOPIA WERE NOT DETERRED. LIKE A PARASITE THAT'S LOST ITS HOST IT JUST FOUND SOMETHING ELSE TO ATTACH ITSELF TOO. THREE YEARS AFTER THE PLAGUE EFFECTIVELY WIPED OUT PROBABLY ANOTHER QUARTER OF THE POPULATION, THEY STARTED OVER. TO SAY THE SLAVERS LEARNED FROM THEIR MISTAKES WOULD BE GIVING THEM FAR TOO MUCH CREDIT. FRANKLY IT WOULD BE A LIE.



THEY STARTED THEIR SALVE RING ALL OVER AGAIN BUT INSTEAD OF DRILLING THEY BEGAN BREAKING GROUND. IT TOOK THEM ANOTHER YEAR AND A COUPLE THOUSAND SOULS TO TURN FERTILE SOIL FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. FAR TO THE SOUTH THEY STARTED A GROUP OF PLANTATIONS. THEY BEGAN CALLING THEMSELVES THE COALITION AFTER AN OLD WORLD FACTION. THEY CONTINUED TO GATHER SLAVES, BUILDING THEIR PITIFUL EMPIRE.

WHY DID THEY SEND
FOUR TRACKERS AFTER YOU?
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A PLUSH
WORTH FOUR LIVES.





I WAS PASSING THROUGH ONE OF THEIR LITTLE COMMUNITIES AND THEY ASSUMED THEY COULD USE ME TO PLANT POTATOES. I DIDN'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO PLANT POTATOES BUT THEY INSISTED SO I BURNT DOWN THEIR TOWN. THEY CONTINUED THEIR INSISTENCE THAT I WORK IN THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY SO I BURNT HALF THEIR CROP. IT WAS THEN THAT THEY REASSESSED MY VALUE AND WENT ABOUT PUTTING OUT THEIR FIRES OF DESIRE.

YOU BURNED A FIELD?!

Y-YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I-I THOUGHT IT WAS SOME
UNSPOKEN CODE OF SURVIVORS,
THAT GRAINS ARE PROTECTED.



I AM NEITHER PART
OF THIS WORLD NOR WILLING TO
GIVE MY LIFE TO ANYONE LET ALONE
FOR A COUPLE THOUSAND ACRES
OF WHEAT AND POTATOES.



YOU CAN'T DO THAT
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT!



NO RIGHT? WOULD YOU
RATHER WORK UNDER COMMAND ON
THE FARMS AS A SLAVE OR LIVE
YOUR LIFE BY YOUR OWN MEASURE
A FREE WOMAN?



DID THEY GET FED?

YOU HAVE TO
KEEP A SLAVE FED
AND SHELTERED IF YOU
EXPECT THEM TO LIVE
LONG ENOUGH TO
BE



THEN I WOULD NOT
MIND BEING A SLAVE IF IT
MEANT FOOD AND A PLACE TO
SLEEP IT BEATS LIVING LIKE A
WILD ANIMAL FIGHTING FOR YOUR
LIFE AND EATING WHAT EVER
SCRAPS YOU CAN FIND!



NO WONDER BROWN
WAS SO SUCCESSFUL





WHATT?

KID YOUR
IGNORANCE IS
ASTOUNDING.



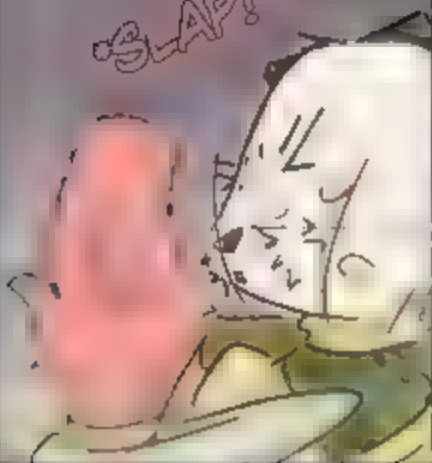
AND YOU CALL
BURNING THE HOPES OF
PLUSH INTELLIGENT?

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY,
THERE IS ONE THING AND ONE
THING ONLY THAT I WANT FROM THIS
WORLD. I WOULD HAPPILY CRACK THIS PLANET
LIKE AN EGG AND EAT ITS HARD-BOILED CORE IF
IT MEANT GETTING WHAT I WANT. ANYONE
OR ANYTHING THAT GETS IN MY WAY
IS IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING.



WHAT COULD
YOU POSSIBLY WANT?
YOUR LAME NAME?

SLAP!



WHAT I WANT
IS NONE OF YOUR
BUSINESS.





SAVE YOUR PITY PARTY KID, YOU FOLLOWED ME. IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL, THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN I WOULD HAVE CARED ABOUT BUT HE'S GONE.

YOU DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT ME. YOU JUST USE ME LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. I'M USELESS.

NO WONDER YOUR BOYFRIEND LEFT YOU, YOU'RE MEAN!



HE WASN'T MY BOYFRIEND, I DIDN'T EVEN LIKE HIM THAT MUCH.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU CARED ABOUT HIM?

KID YOU HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD.



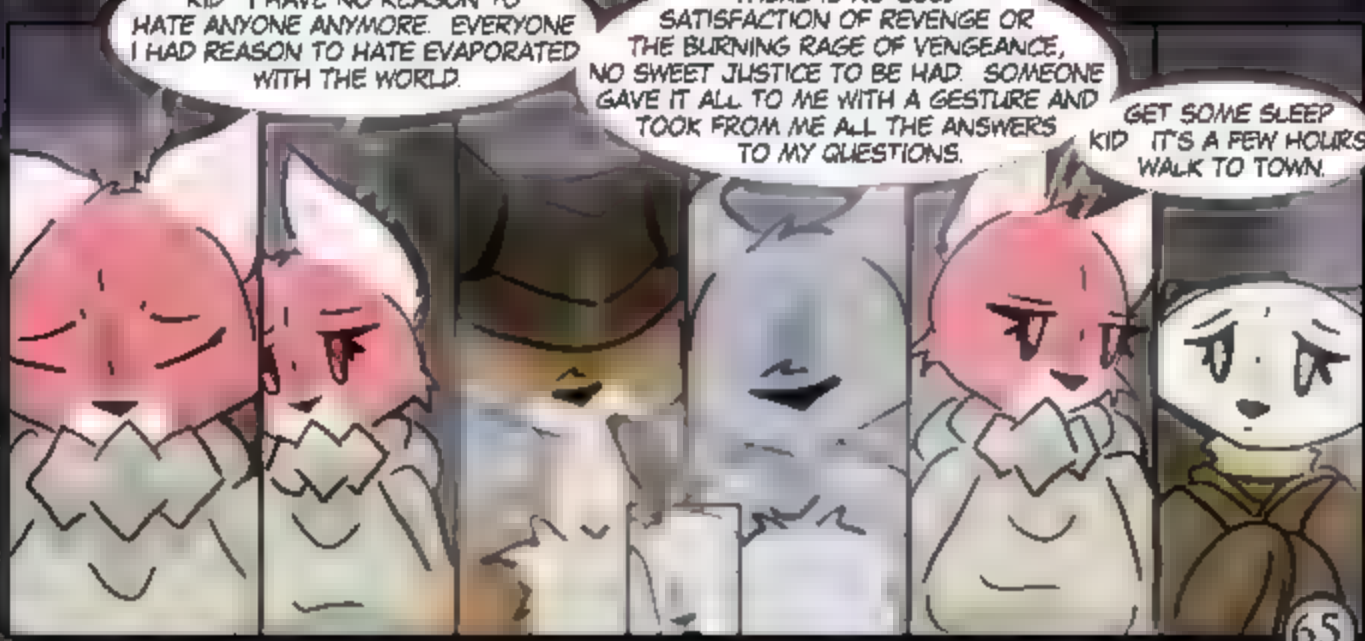
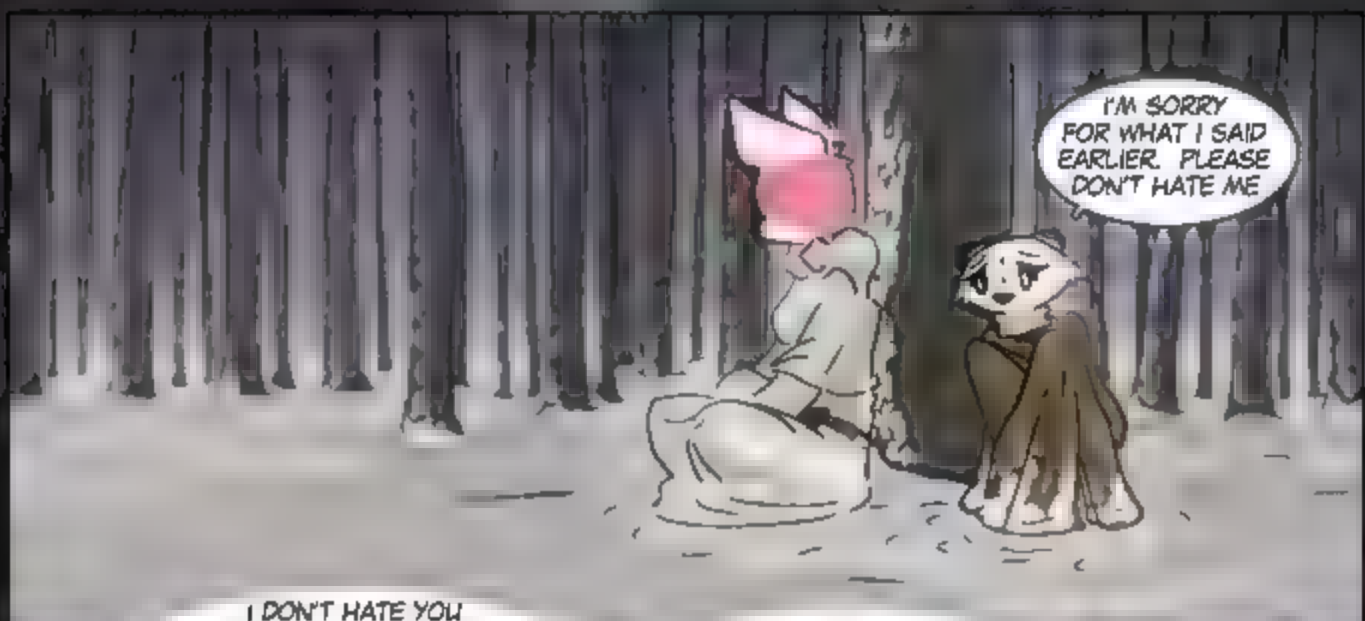
WHO WAS HE, A HUSBAND, OR A BROTHER OR SOMETHING?

OR SOMETHING.

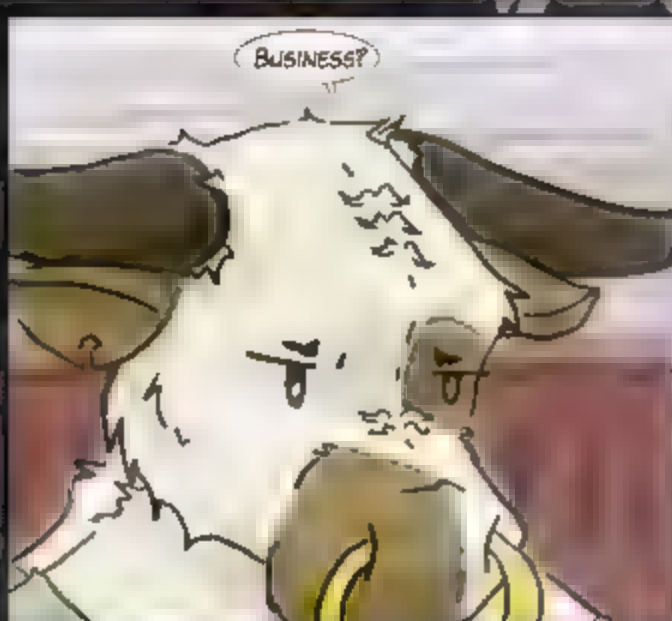
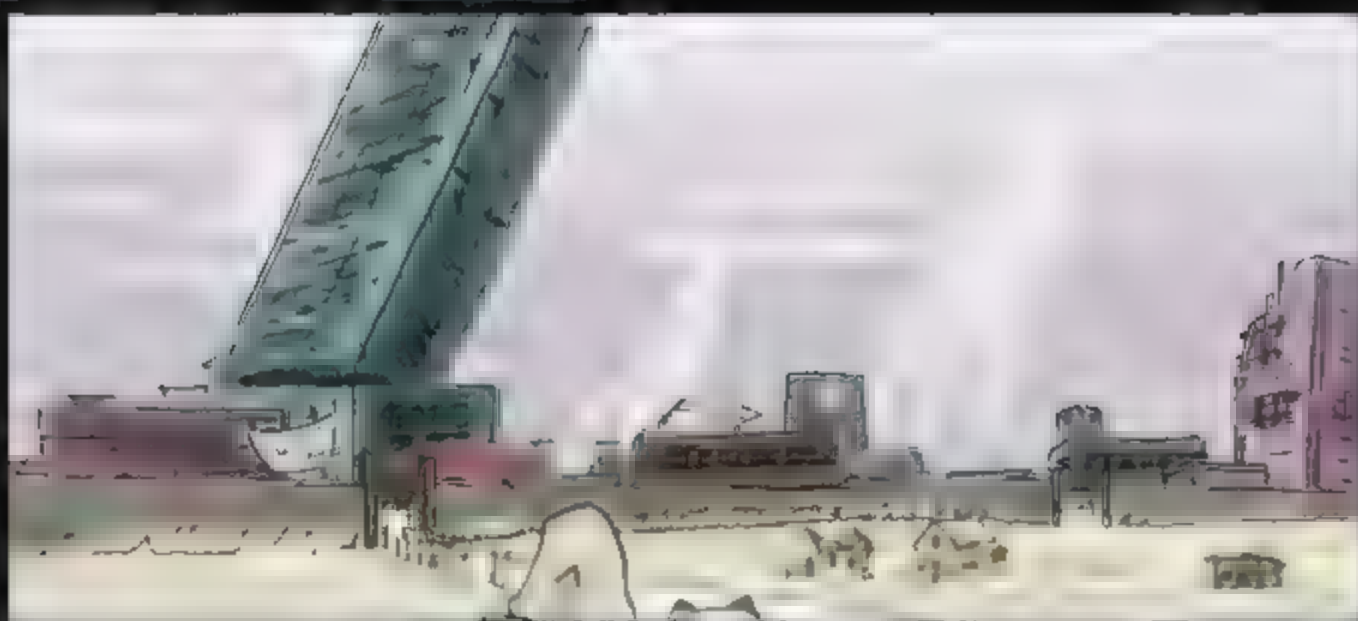
FINE DON'T TELL ME, I DON'T EVEN LIKE YOU.

GOOD THEN YOU'RE LEARNING SOMETHING.

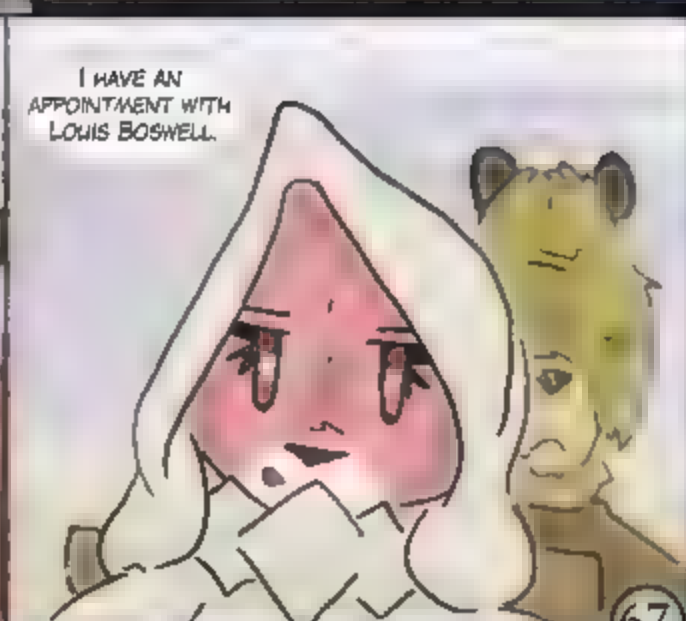
AND CUT OUT THE CROCODILE TEARS. MEN WILL EAT YOU ALIVE IF THEY SEE THAT







BUSINESS?



I HAVE AN
APPOINTMENT WITH
LOUIS BOSWELL.



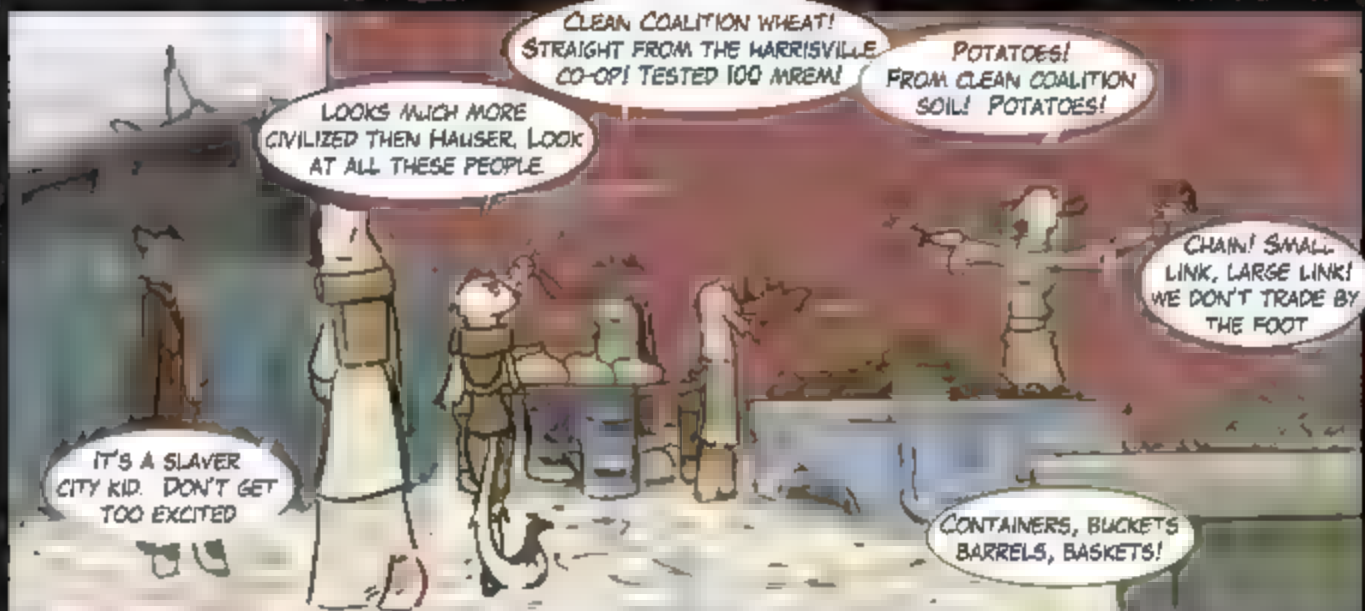
VERY WELL
CAUSE TROUBLE AND
YOU FORFEIT YOUR RIGHTS
AS A LIVING BEING.



KEEP YOUR
CHILD ON A SHORT
LEASH, THE COALITION
ARE IN TOWN.

MY WORD ON
MY LIFE I ACCEPT

WELCOME TO
HARRISVILLE



CLEAN COALITION WHEAT!
STRAIGHT FROM THE HARRISVILLE
CO-OP! TESTED 100 MREM!

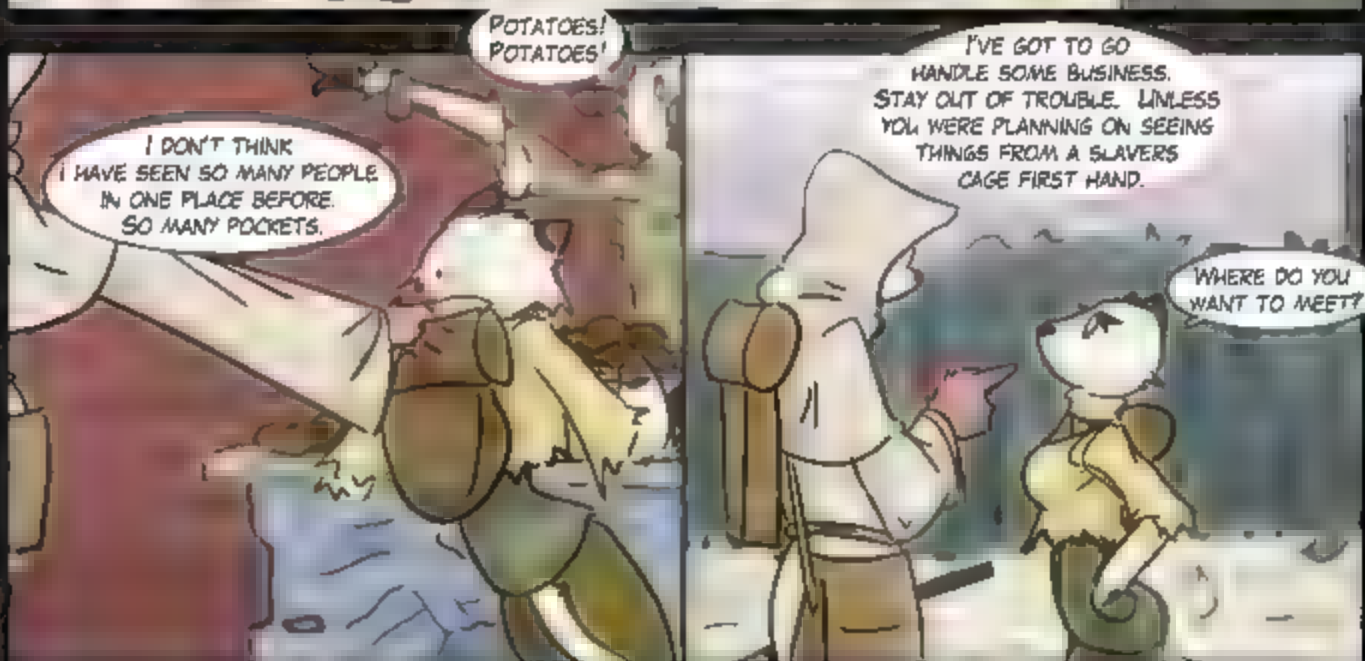
POTATOES!
FROM CLEAN COALITION
SOIL! POTATOES!

LOOKS MUCH MORE
CIVILIZED THEN HAUSER. LOOK
AT ALL THESE PEOPLE

CHAIN! SMALL
LINK, LARGE LINK!
WE DON'T TRADE BY
THE FOOT

IT'S A SLAVER
CITY KID. DON'T GET
TOO EXCITED

CONTAINERS, BUCKETS
BARRELS, BASKETS!



POTATOES!
POTATOES!

I DON'T THINK
I HAVE SEEN SO MANY PEOPLE
IN ONE PLACE BEFORE.
SO MANY POCKETS.

I'VE GOT TO GO
HANDLE SOME BUSINESS.
STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. UNLESS
YOU WERE PLANNING ON SEEING
THINGS FROM A SLAVERS
CAGE FIRST HAND.

WHERE DO YOU
WANT TO MEET?



I'LL FIND YOU,
STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.

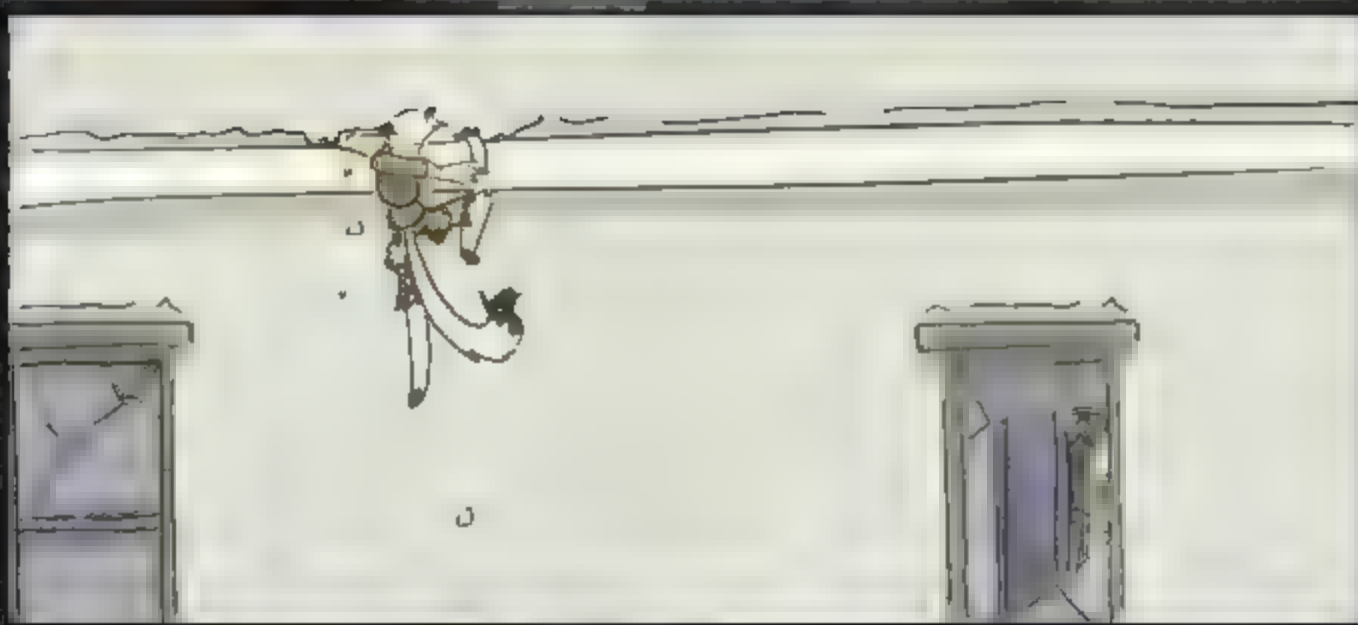
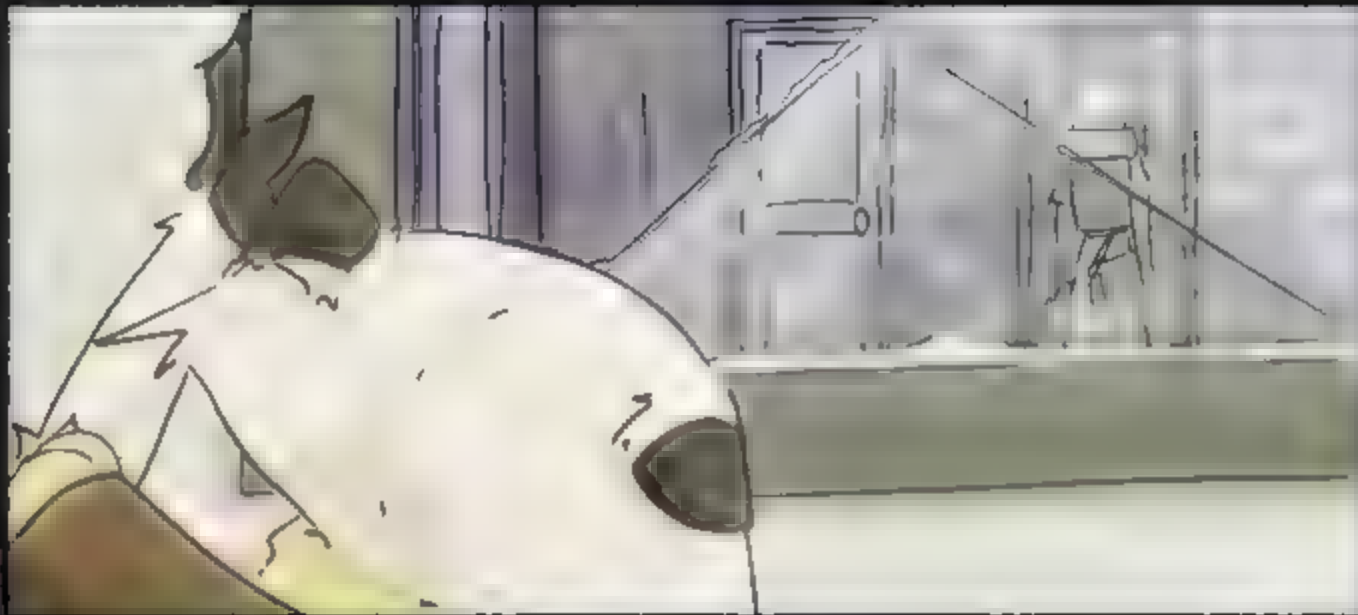
WHAT, NO
SPENDING MONEY!?

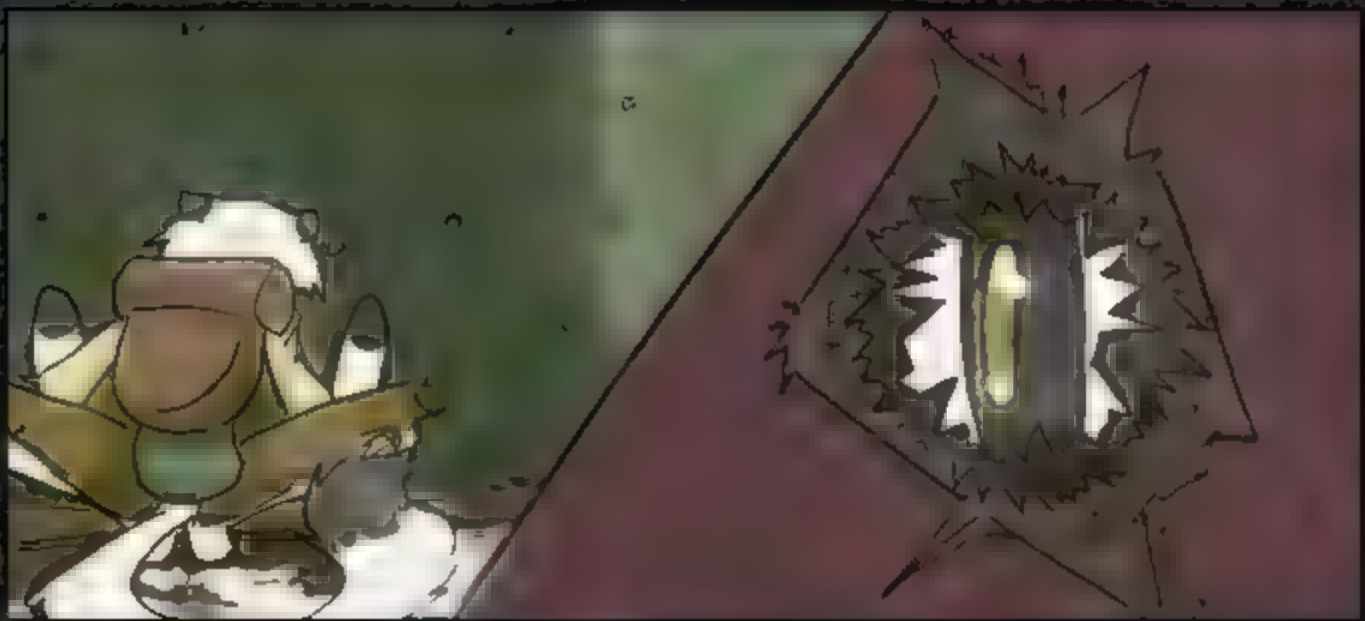
TROUBLE

AS IF YOU
EVEN CARE

EEP!







ROSE
SO GOOD TO
SEE YOU.



STUFF IT LOUIS,
I'VE COME TO COLLECT

WELL NOW,
ALL I HIRED YOU TO
DO WAS SLIP ME OUT OF THAT
TOWN. I DID NOT PAY YOU TO BURY
HALF OF IT TO THE GROUND. ALL
THAT BLAME RESTS
ON ME



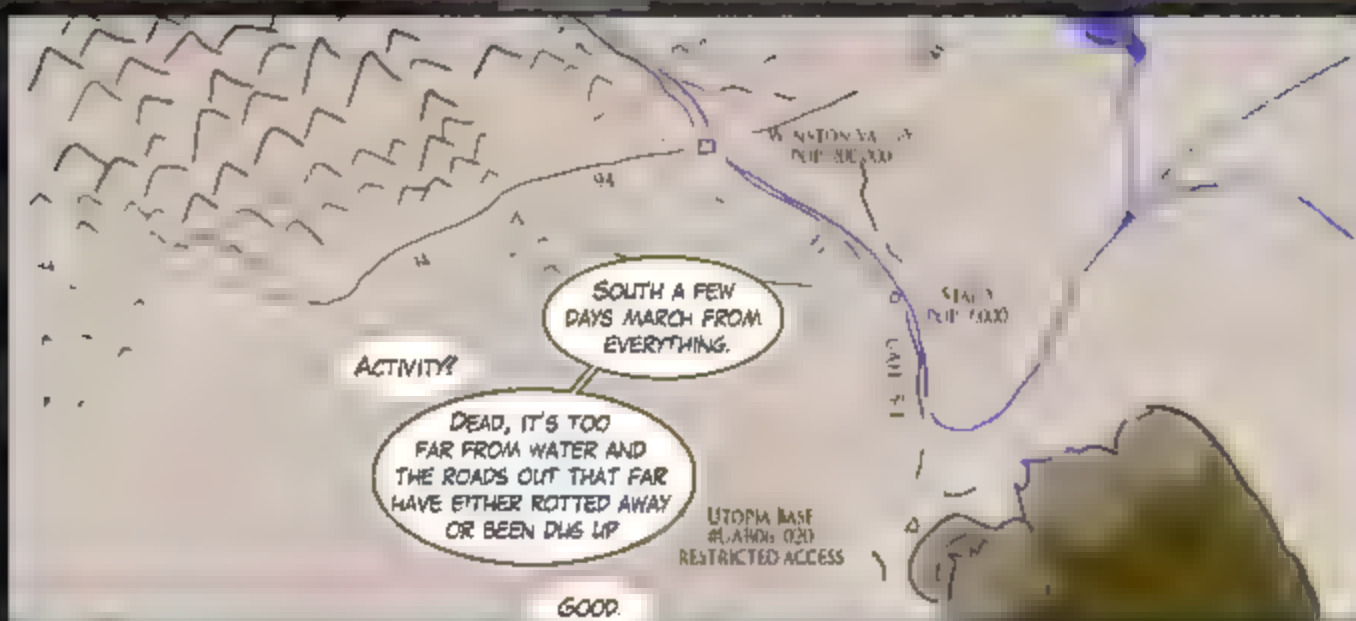
CUT THE SHIT
BOSWELL. YOU CAN
HAND IT OVER OR I
CAN EMBARRASS
YOUR GOONS.

E-EASY, JUST
PULLIN' YOUR TAIL.
THE MAP IS RIGHT HERE



KEEP YOUR HANDS
OFF MY TAIL AND
LET ME SEE IT





YOU GET CAUGHT
DOWN THERE AND I'VE
NEVER SEEN YOU.

SHUT UP BOSWELL.
YOU KNOW NO ONE CAN
CATCH ME, UNLESS I
WANT THEM TOO.



EVEN THE BEST
FALL EVENTUALLY MY
NAMELESS LADY

THEY DO,
AND I WOULD WORRY,
BUT I'M NOT ONE
OF YOU.

DANGEROUS WORDS
CAT THEY COULD BE
MISCONSTRUED OR INTERPRETED
AS A HEMP NECKLACE.



I SUSPECT ON
THAT DAY WHO EVER IS
RUNNING THAT FIERY PIT OF SINNERS
WILL COME TO COLLECT
ME PERSONALLY



I WOULD PAY TO SEE THAT



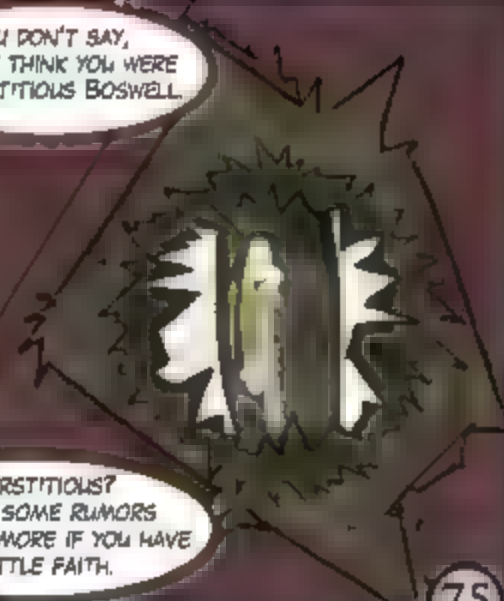
I'LL MAKE SURE YOUR
INVITE ARRIVES ON TIME.



SOME ONE BROUGHT
A RUMOR INTO TOWN A MONTH
AGO ABOUT THE 'GRAY GHOST'
DESTROYING A SLAVERS ATOLL
FURTHER NORTH.



YOU DON'T SAY,
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE
SUPERSTITIOUS BOSWELL.



SUPERSTITIOUS?
NO, BUT SOME RUMORS
ARE WORTH MORE IF YOU HAVE
A LITTLE FAITH.



YOU SHOULD
KNOW BY NOW BOSWELL,
YOU CAN'T SELL A
RUMOR.

NO BUT
YOU CAN SURELY
PUT A DEPOSIT DOWN
ON THEM.



GO TO HELL BOSWELL.

I'LL SEE YOU THERE.



YOU DUMB ERMINE,
YOU ARE DAMNED LUCKY
I RUBBED YOU ALL OVER ME. I
COULD SMELL YOU BEFORE I EVEN
CAME INTO THE ROOM. I DO NOT KNOW
HOW BOSWELL AND HIS GOONS COULD
OVERLOOK YOU SPYING. I TAKE
IT YOU HEARD EVERYTHING?

HEARD IT BUT
I DID NOT UNDERSTAND IT
IT'S ALL SO CONFUSING, WHAT
WAS ON THAT MAP?



FOR PITY'S
SAKE WHAT WAS YOUR
FIRST LESSON?



WHAT? GET OFF



IF YOU
CAN'T FOLLOW
ORDERS THEN I HAVE NO
USE FOR YOU.



QUESTIONS!
QUESTIONS WILL
KILL YOU.



NO. QUESTIONS
DON'T KILL QUESTIONS
GET YOU KILLED



WHATEVER,
YOU HATE ME ANYWAYS.



BLAP

WOULD I BE
STANDING IN THIS
STINKING ALLEY SLAPPING
YOUR EARS IF I
HATED YOU?



I DON'T KNOW...



I AM TRYING
TO TEACH YOU SOMETHING
TO HELP YOU TO SURVIVE
ON YOUR OWN.
LISTEN.

OK

YOU'LL FIND
OUT WHAT'S ON THE
MAP SOONER THEN YOU
MIGHT LIKE.

ARE WE LEAVING?

I CAN'T LEAVE
YOU ON YOUR OWN HERE
WITH THE SLAVERS IN TOWN. GETTING
YOURSELF SOLD INTO SLAVERY WOULD
NOT SIT WELL ON MY
CONSCIOUS

IN RETROSPECT
SLAVERY DOES NOT LOOK
LIKE A GOOD IDEA.

PROBABLY ONE
OF THE WORST IDEAS
EVER CONCEIVED SURPASSED
ONLY BY ITS BASTARD
CHILD, STUFFING.

NOTHING,
LETS GO GET
SUPPLIES.

WHAT?

A POTATO
JUST LEAPT OUT OF
THE GROUND, FANCY
THAT





I THOUGHT HE
SAID THERE WOULD BE
NO ONE DOWN HERE?

KID HE WOULD HAVE
SAID IT ANY WAY HE PLEASED.
I DIE BY ACCIDENT, I DIE BY EXPOSURE,
I DIE BY CONVOY, AND IT'S ALL THE
SAME TO HIM. BUSINESS IS
BUSINESS.



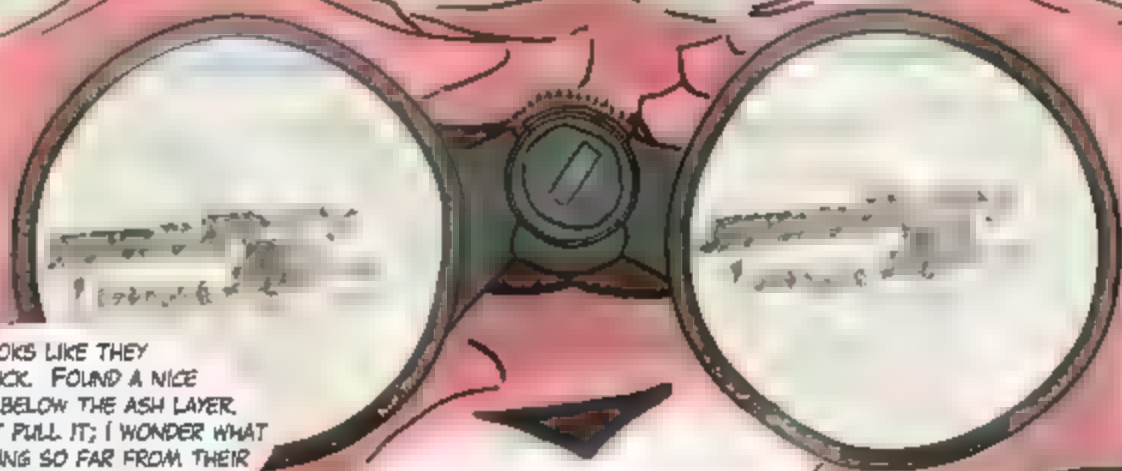
CONVOY?

HUSH.
KID YOU NEED A
MUZZLE.



SHOULD WE EVEN
BE HERE? WHAT IF THEY
SEE US?

WE'LL KEEP YOUR
HEAD DOWN AND YOUR
MOUTH SHUT. IF YOU CAN
MANAGE THAT YOU
SHOULD BE FINE.



LOOKS LIKE THEY
ARE STUCK. FOUND A NICE
SOFT PATCH BELOW THE ASH LAYER.
MOUNTS CAN'T PULL IT; I WONDER WHAT
THEY ARE DOING SO FAR FROM THEIR
PRECIOUS ROAD. IT'S NOT
LIKE THEM.

MAYBE THEY QUIT

HEH, A DEPECTING
CONVOY. YEAH, THAT IS ABOUT
AS LIKELY AS YOU BEING THE
PRINCESS OF LITOPIA.

WHO SAYS I'M NOT

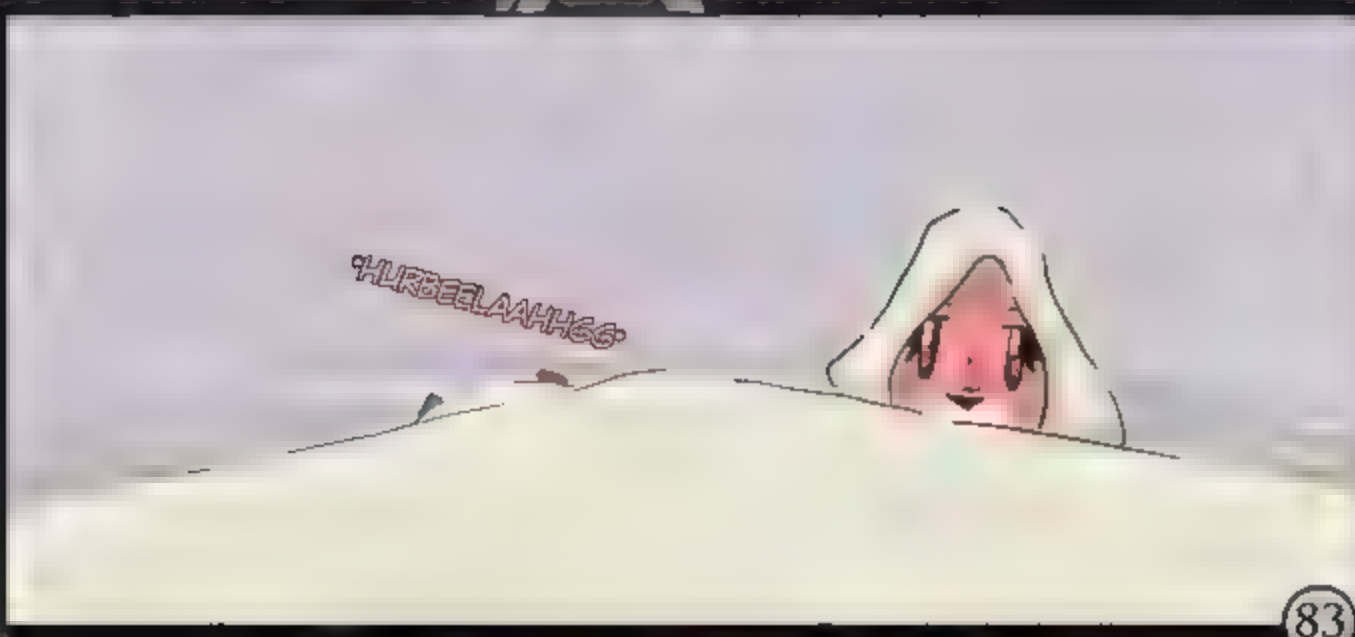
NOT SHORT ENOUGH.

NOT SHORT ENOUGH?

THERE ARE TWELVE
OF THEM. THEY DON'T LOOK
LIKE SCOUTS. LOOKS LIKE THEY WERE
HEADED WEST. SAME DIRECTION AS
THE OTHERS. SOMETHING
IS GOING ON.

LOOK SOMEONE
IS TRYING TO RUN AWAY

STAY DOWN
WE CANNOT HELP THEM.



A cartoon illustration showing two characters from behind, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape. The character on the left is a small, white, cat-like creature with a green tunic and a brown backpack. The character on the right is a taller, white, hooded figure with a brown backpack and a long white robe. They are standing on a light-colored, sandy or dusty ground. In the distance, a city with several tall, thin structures is visible through the haze. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

I'VE NEVER
SEEN AN ACTUAL CITY
BEFORE.

IT'S SO....
EVERYWHERE

CAN YOU SEE ANYONE?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE IS
DOWN THERE. WHY AREN'T THERE PEOPLE
DOWN THERE? IT SEEMS KIND OF DUMB TO BE
LIVING OUT IN THE WASTELAND
WHEN THERE'S STUFF
LIKE THIS HERE.

SHHHHHHHH

CAN WE GO
DOWN THERE? IF YOU
DON'T SEE ANYONE-

WHY DO WORDS KEEP
COMING OUT OF MOUTHS? IS
IT SOME NEED FOR SOUND THAT THE
SILENCE CANNOT GIVE YOU? OR IS IT
SIMPLY THAT YOU DO NOT
LISTEN TO YOURSELF?

WHAT'S SO
SCARY ABOUT A DEAD
CITY? IF THERE IS NO
ONE THERE-

IT IS WHEN YOU SEE NO ONE
THAT YOU NEED TO REALLY WORRY. CITIES
ARE A GRAVITATIONAL POINT FOR LIFE. ALL KINDS
OF LIFE. IN THESE TIMES HOWEVER, THAT MUCH
LIFE IN ONE SPOT BEGINS
TO TURN SOUR.

LIKE A DISEASE PEOPLE
BEGIN TO PREY UPON EACH OTHER,
FOR TERRITORY, FOOD, OR JUST OUT OF SPITE.
PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO DO THINGS THEY MAY HAVE NOT
CONSIDERED EVER IN THEIR LIVES. THE RUINED
CITIES ARE SINKHOLES FOR
CORRUPTION.

IS IT WHERE
THE CONVOY LIVE?

SOMETIMES.

SOMETIMES YOU
FIND REAL MONSTERS. AND SOMETIMES
YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE
MIDDLE OF AN ISOLATED WAR WITH
AN IDEALIST'S DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR
HELL BENT ON REBUILDING
CIVILIZATION.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

YOU ARE
ALREADY FREE.

WHAT?

WHO WOULD
THEY FREE YOU
FROM?

LOOK AROUND. THIS!
THIS IS PRISON. NOTHING
AND NOTHING AND NOTHING AS
FAR AS YOU CAN SEE. DISORIENTING,
LIFE DRAINING, BRAIN MELTING,
WASTELAND. FREE ME
FROM THIS.

KID YOU SURE
HAVE SOME STRANGE
NOTIONS ABOUT
FREEDOM.

YOU'RE CALLING
ME STRANGE?? YOU'RE QUEEN
OF THIS WASTE.

CUTE. THE BASE
I AM HEADED FOR IS STRAIGHT
SOUTH; THE CITY SITS IN OUR WAY. IT
WILL TAKE US THREE DAYS TO GO AROUND
THE CITY OR ABOUT A DAY TO GO THROUGH. WE
DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH FOOD TO GO
AROUND AND COME BACK.

WE GET TO GO
THROUGH THE CITY?

WE GET?
NO WE HAVE TO
GO THROUGH THE CITY
I WOULD MUCH RATHER
GO AROUND.

SCARED
OF GHOSTS?

GHOSTS DON'T
SET TRAPS OVER EVERY
SQUARE INCH OF CITY.

OH...

THERE DOESN'T EVEN
HAVE TO BE ANYONE DOWN THERE.
YOU GET CAUGHT IN A SIMPLE SNARE AND
YOU DIE OF STARVATION. ALL THEY
HAVE TO DO IS COME BACK AND
COLLECT YOUR CARCASS.

WE'LL CAMP
HERE TONIGHT AND
HEAD DOWN IN THE
MORNING.



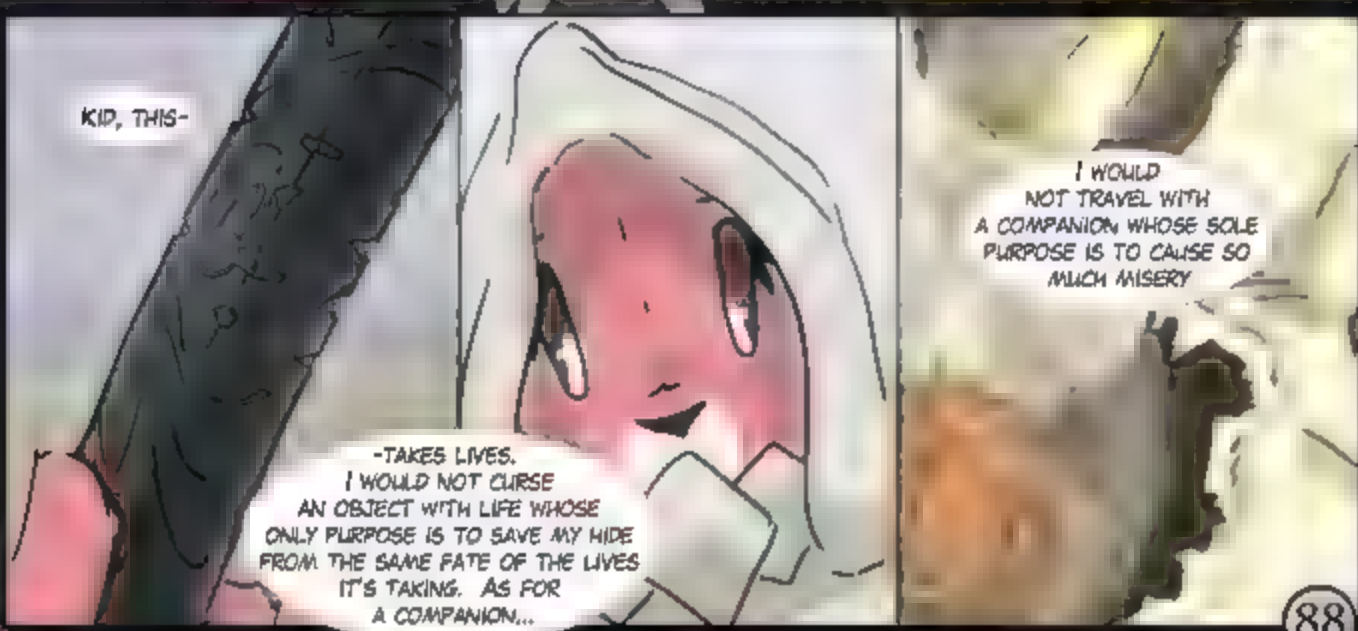
YOUR SWORD,
DOES IT HAVE A
NAME?

NO WHY
WOULD I NAME
MY CANE?



I THOUGHT
EVERYONE NAMED THEIR
WEAPONS.

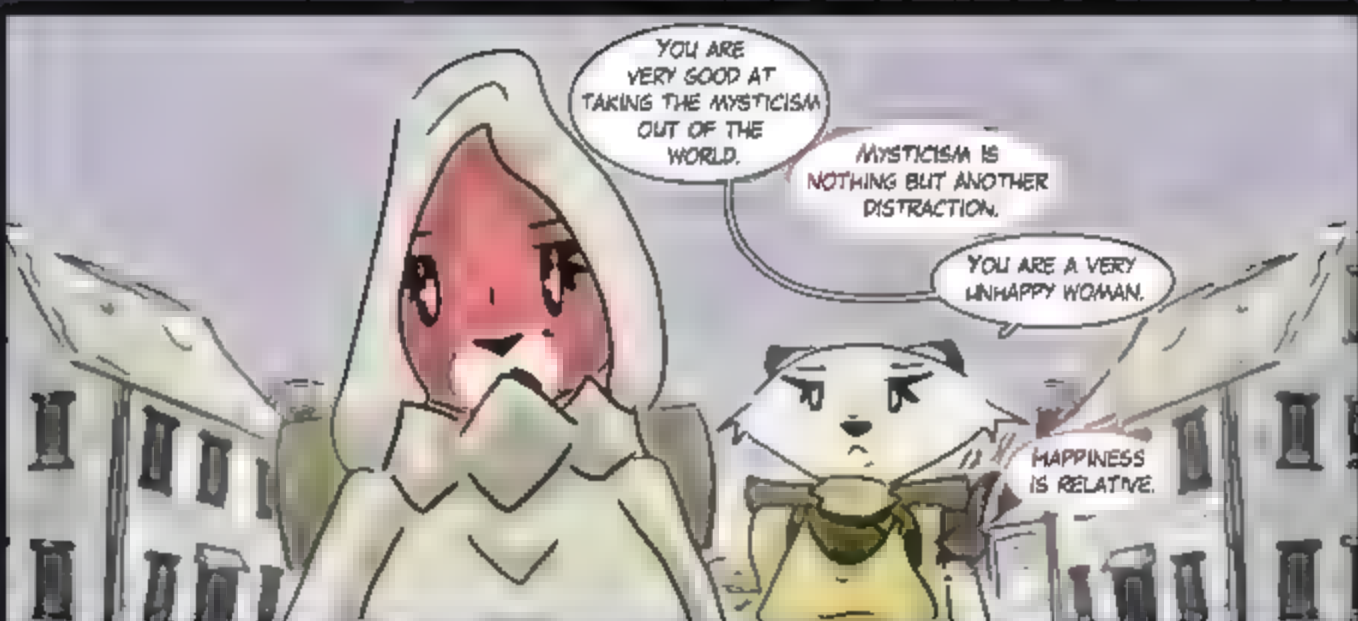
WHY WOULD
I NAME A SHARP PIECE
OF METAL INSIDE OF
A STICK?



KID, THIS-

-TAKES LIVES.
I WOULD NOT CURSE
AN OBJECT WITH LIFE WHOSE
ONLY PURPOSE IS TO SAVE MY HIDE
FROM THE SAME FATE OF THE LIVES
IT'S TAKING. AS FOR
A COMPANION...

I WOULD
NOT TRAVEL WITH
A COMPANION WHOSE SOLE
PURPOSE IS TO CAUSE SO
MUCH MISERY



YOU ARE
VERY GOOD AT
TAKING THE MYSTICISM
OUT OF THE
WORLD.

MYSTICISM IS
NOTHING BUT ANOTHER
DISTRACTION.

YOU ARE A VERY
UNHAPPY WOMAN.

HAPPINESS
IS RELATIVE.



NO, HAPPINESS
IS A SMILE IN YOUR
HEART

WHO SAYS MY
HEART IS NOT SMILING
WHILE I AM ALONE IN
THE WASTES.

NO ONE
CAN BE HAPPY
ALONE.

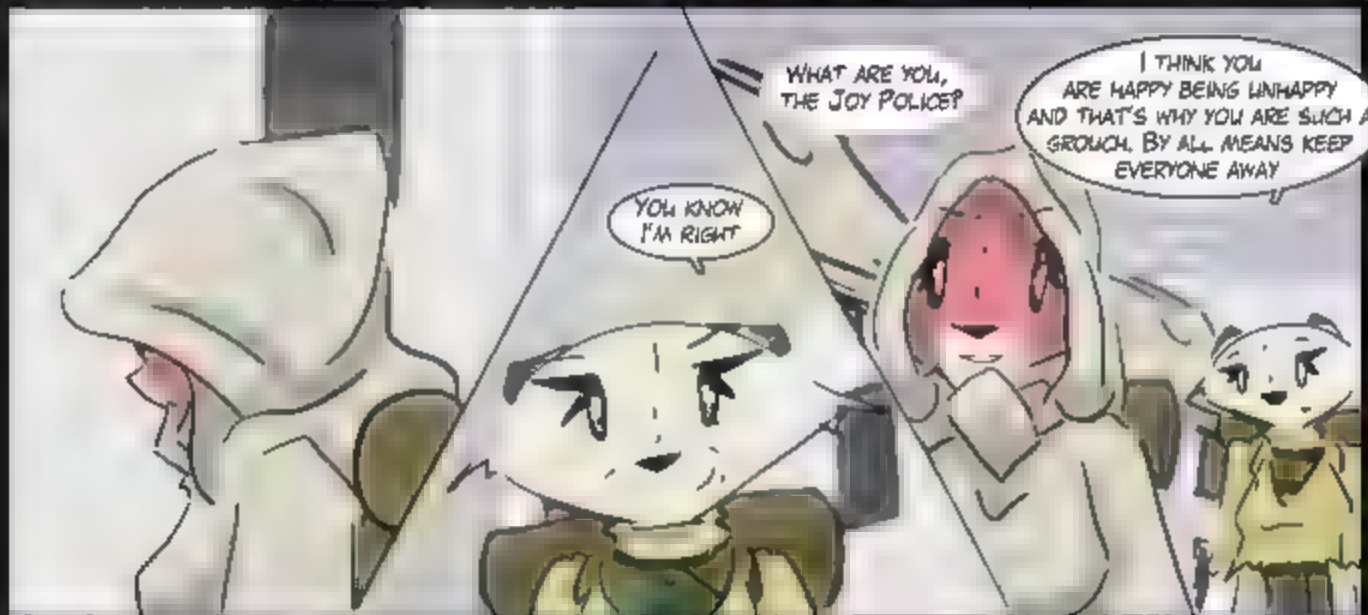
I CAN.



DO YOU REALLY
BELIEVE BEING ALONE WILL
MAKE YOU HAPPY?

CONTACT WITH
OTHERS IS GOING TO
MAKE ME HAPPY?

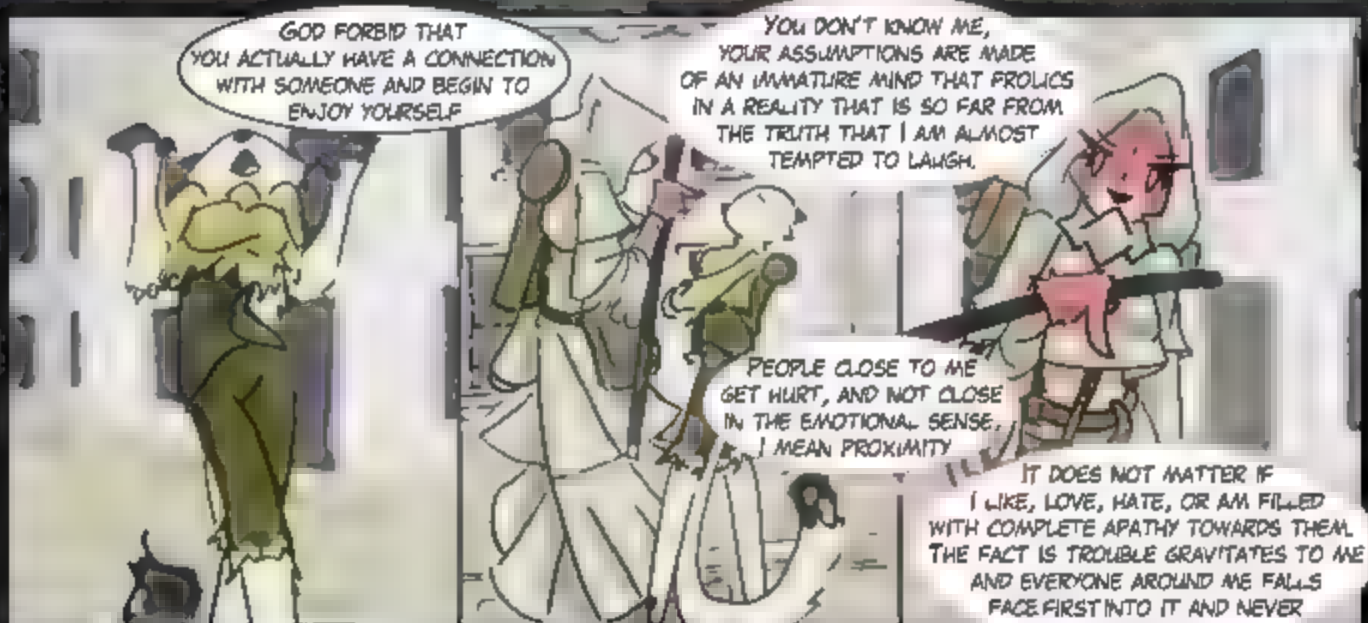
NO, A CONNECTION
WITH SOMEONE WILL MAKE YOU
HAPPY. YOU DON'T KNOW HAPPINESS. YOU
HAVE BEEN OUT HERE FOR TOO LONG, YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN HOW WONDERFUL COMPANY IS. WHAT ABOUT
YOUR NOT-BOYFRIEND? WERE YOU NOT HAPPY
WHEN YOU WERE WITH HIM?



WHAT ARE YOU,
THE JOY POLICE?

I THINK YOU
ARE HAPPY BEING UNHAPPY
AND THAT'S WHY YOU ARE SUCH A
GROUCH. BY ALL MEANS KEEP
EVERYONE AWAY

YOU KNOW
I'M RIGHT



GOD FORBID THAT
YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A CONNECTION
WITH SOMEONE AND BEGIN TO
ENJOY YOURSELF

YOU DON'T KNOW ME,
YOUR ASSUMPTIONS ARE MADE
OF AN IMMATURE MIND THAT FROLICS
IN A REALITY THAT IS SO FAR FROM
THE TRUTH THAT I AM ALMOST
TEMPTED TO LAUGH.

PEOPLE CLOSE TO ME
GET HURT, AND NOT CLOSE
IN THE EMOTIONAL SENSE,
I MEAN PROXIMITY

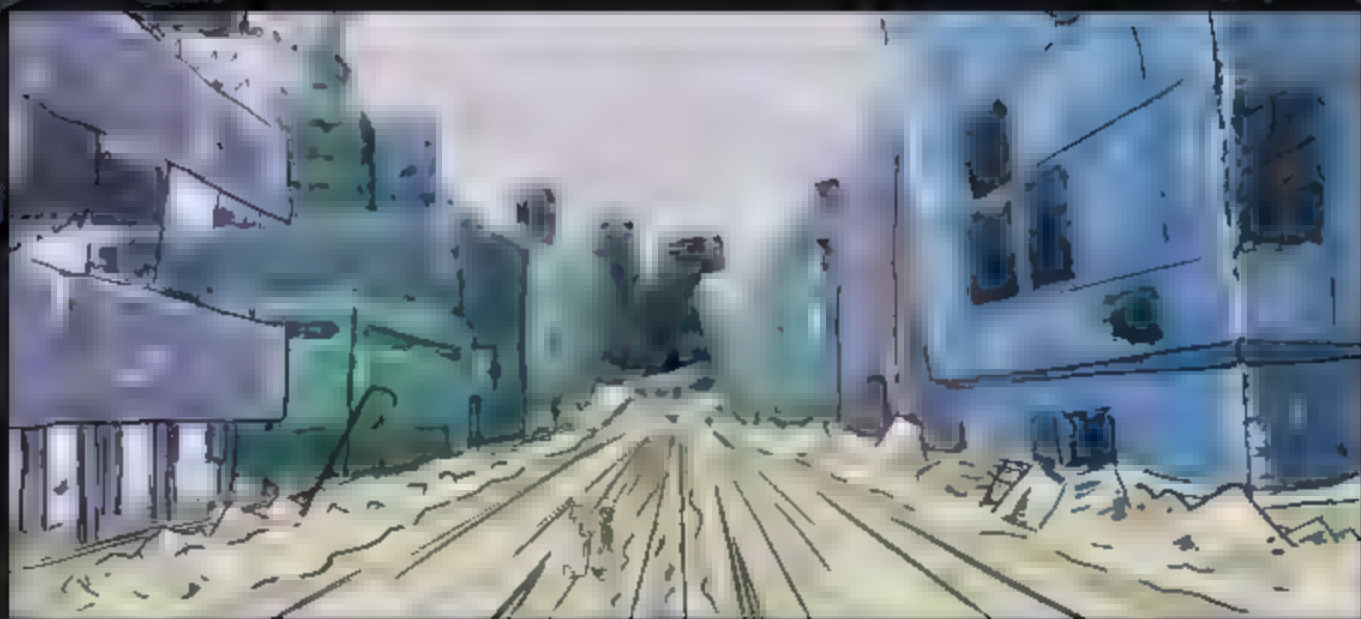
IT DOES NOT MATTER IF
I LIKE, LOVE, HATE, OR AM FILLED
WITH COMPLETE APATHY TOWARDS THEM.
THE FACT IS TROUBLE GRAVITATES TO ME
AND EVERYONE AROUND ME FALLS
FACE FIRST INTO IT AND NEVER
COMES OUT



FINE, WHATEVER.
IF YOU CANNOT EVEN SEE PAST
YOUR OWN MISERY, I WILL STOP TRYING
TO MAKE A CONNECTION. IF YOU
CAN'T BE HAPPY THEN I GUESS
I CAN'T BE HAPPY.

YOU KNOW WHAT
YOUR PROBLEM IS, YOU ARE
CONVINCED THAT EVERYONE
LIKES YOU.

YOU KNOW WHAT
YOUR PROBLEM IS, YOU'RE
CONVINCED EVERYONE IS
OUT TO GET YOU



WHY ARE WE
WALKING DOWN THE MIDDLE
OF THE ROAD IF THE CITY IS
SO DANGEROUS?

I CAN SEE
OBSTACLES IF THEY ARE
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE
STREET



WHAT?

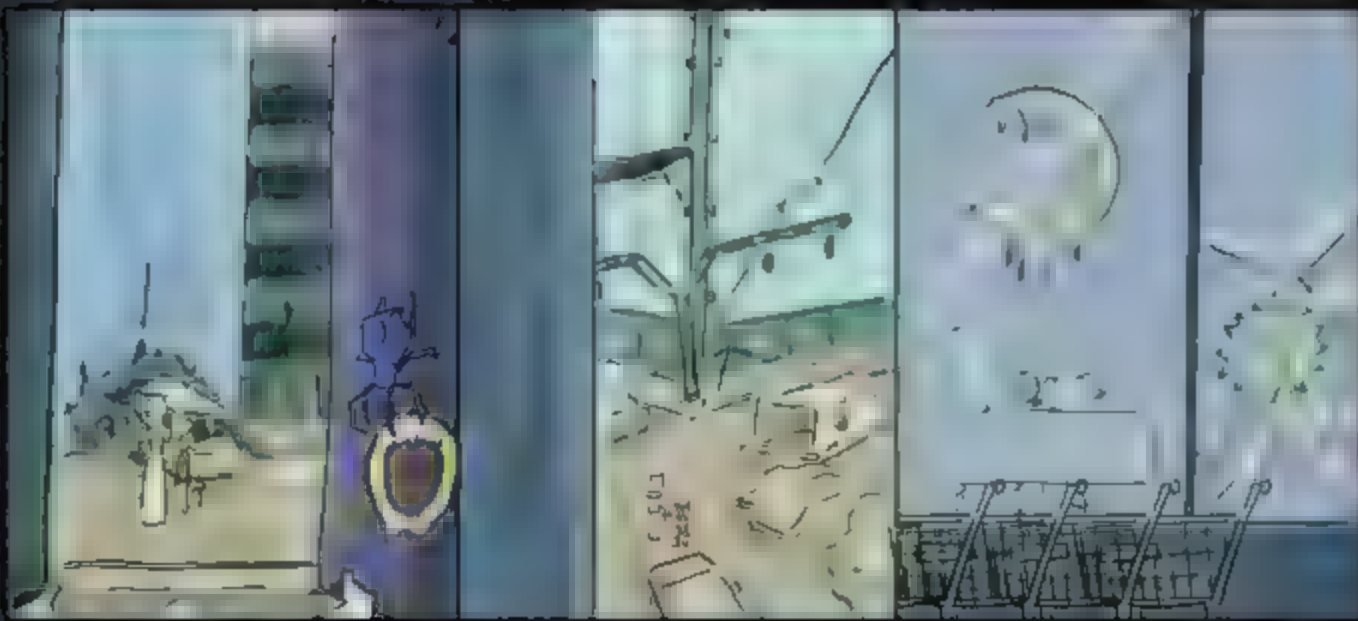
PEOPLE LEARN FAST
DESPITE CURRENT RUMORS OF
THEIR SO CALLED INTELLIGENCE.
NO ONE GOES THROUGH A
CITY IN A GROUP

THEY COME IN HANDFULS
ABLE TO SKIRT THE BUILDINGS AND
SNEAK THROUGH THE STREETS. SURPRISES
ARE EASILY LAID IN THE DARK CORNERS,
INCONSPICUOUS RUBBLE AND
CASUAL DEBRIS.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID
CONVOY COME DOWN
HERE...

A CLEAR ROAD
FOR THE ONLY LARGE GROUP
THAT WOULD DARE

SMILE WE'RE
BEING FOLLOWED.



I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE WERE BEING FOLLOWED? WHY HAVEN'T THEY ATTACKED?

HUH?

YOU SAID, SMILE WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED.

OH, THEM. THEY STOPPED FOLLOWING US HOURS AGO. I THOUGHT YOU SAW THE OLD GOAT



OLD GOAT?

AROUND THE THIRTY-SECOND FLOOR OF THAT LEANING OFFICE BUILDING ABOUT EIGHTY OR SO BLOCKS BACK.

OFFICE BUILDING? I'VE NEVER SEEN A BUILDING OVER TWO STORIES BEFORE I MET YOU!

I WOULD BE LUCKY TO SEE ANYONE STANDING RIGHT NEXT TO ME WITH MY ANXIETY.

THIRTY-TWO STORIES, THAT COULD BE ALMOST ANY BUILDING HERE. I-I CAN'T EVEN SEE THAT FAR

WHY DID THEY STOP?

WE DIDN'T
CROSS INTO THEIR
TERRITORY.

WERE THEY
FRIENDLY? WHY DIDN'T
WE STOP?

WOULDN'T SAY FRIENDLY,
THEY JUST DON'T WANT US
TO COME VISIT

SO WE JUST
PASS ON BY?

THIS TIME.

WHAT
HAPPENED HERE?

YOU WANT THE
LONG VERSION OR THE
SHORT VERSION?

WAIT YOU'RE
ACTUALLY GOING TO TALK
TO ME NOW?

YOU'RE USUALLY FULL
OF QUESTIONS, I WAS ENJOYING
THAT LAST FEW HOURS OF SILENCE.
I FIGURED THAT YOU MIGHT FINALLY
HAVE BEEN STRUCK DUMB.

LONG VERSION.

AFTER THE EVENT-

WHAT IS THIS EVENT EXACTLY, I MEAN I KNOW WHAT EVERYONE HAS TOLD ME, BUT WHAT IS IT EXACTLY

THIS IS THE RESULT OF ONE MAN.

AN EXPLOSION LIKE NONE WITNESSED SINCE THE FORMATION OF THIS ROCK. THE EXPERTS ESTIMATED IT TO BE IN EXCESS OF FIVE GIGATONS.

I DON'T KNOW HOW BIG THAT IS.

IMAGINE THIS ENTIRE CITY AND AS MUCH DIRT AND STONE TURNED TO ATOMS IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

IT SPLIT THE PLANET'S CRUST DOWN TO THE LIQUID MANTLE UNLEASHING A VOLCANIC ERUPTION THE LIKES OF WHICH THIS PLANET HAS NOT SEEN IN A MILLION YEARS.

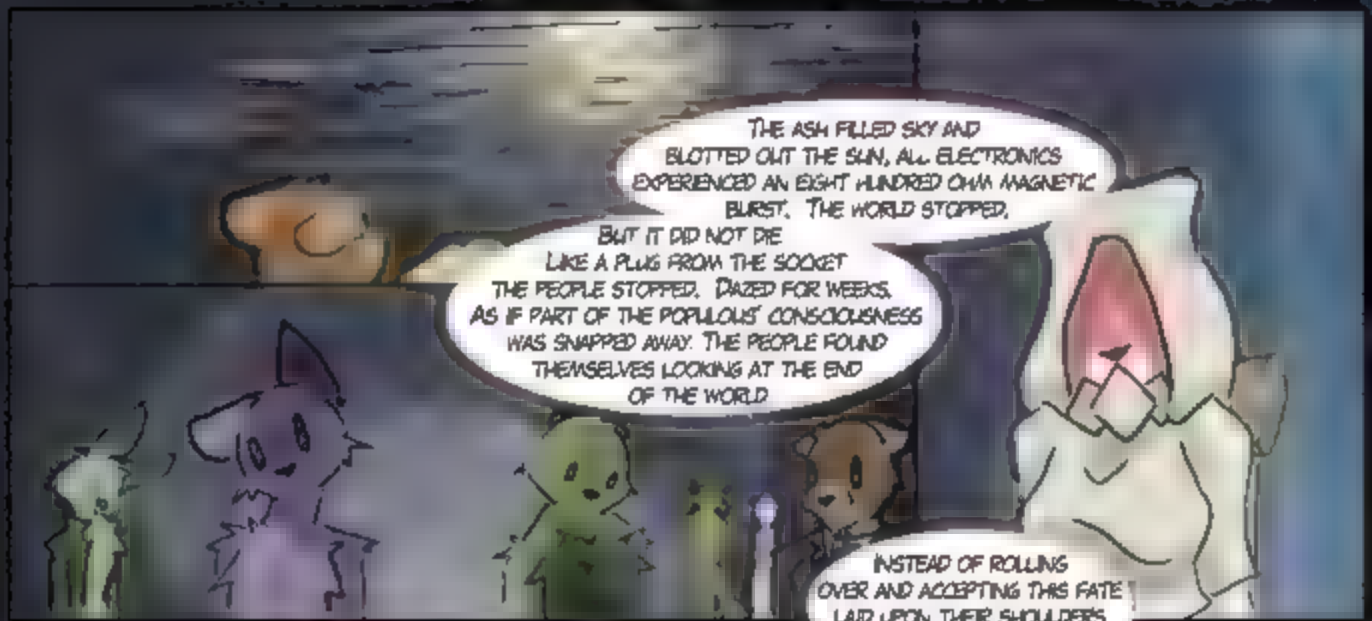
THE RIFT

YOU FOLK HAVE SUCH CUTE NAMES FOR THINGS.

IT THREW ASH INTO THE AIR ALONG WITH THE BOOM. I KNOW THIS PART ALREADY. DID THIS CITY DIE AFTER?

SORRY FOR ELABORATING.

NO. LIPTOPIA TURNED TO ATOMS AND EVERYTHING WITHIN FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES WAS LAID FLAT. AN EARTHQUAKE MEASURING TEN POINT FIVE ROCKED THIS



THE ASH FILLED SKY AND
BLOTTED OUT THE SUN, ALL ELECTRONICS
EXPERIENCED AN EIGHT HUNDRED OMN MAGNETIC
BURST. THE WORLD STOPPED.

BUT IT DID NOT DIE
LIKE A PLUG FROM THE SOCKET
THE PEOPLE STOPPED. DAZED FOR WEEKS,
AS IF PART OF THE POPULOUS CONSCIOUSNESS
WAS SNAPPED AWAY. THE PEOPLE FOUND
THEMSELVES LOOKING AT THE END
OF THE WORLD



INSTEAD OF ROLLING
OVER AND ACCEPTING THIS FATE
LAD UPON THEIR SHOULDERS
THE PEOPLE STOOD.



WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR
A CRUDE RADIO NETWORK HAD BEEN
RE-ESTABLISHED. THE
PEOPLE RALLIED



THEY BEGAN INVESTIGATING.
A QUARTER OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
HAD BEEN REDUCED TO ATOMS. WHY?
WHAT? WHO WAS TO BLAME?

THE BROKEN CIRCLE,
THE PEOPLE YELLED,
THEY WERE TO BLAME!



THE VOLCANIC CLOUD
BELCHING FROM THE EARTH CARRIED
A TOXIC CLOUD OF FALLOUT THAT
BLANKETED THE PLANET



THE SUNLIGHT HAD
BEEN FORGOTTEN. THE TEMPERATURE
PLUMMETED, IT WAS THE COLDEST NINE
MONTHS OF EVERYONE'S LIVES.



AGAIN THE PEOPLE
RALLIED. THE PLANTS HAD DIED,
THE ANIMALS WERE DYING, AND THE PEOPLE
WERE FOLLOWING SUIT. THEY STRUGGLED TO SURVIVE
AND DIED BY THE THOUSANDS. COLD, STARVATION,
AND RADIATION SICKNESS SLEW THEM
WITH OUT RESTRAINT.

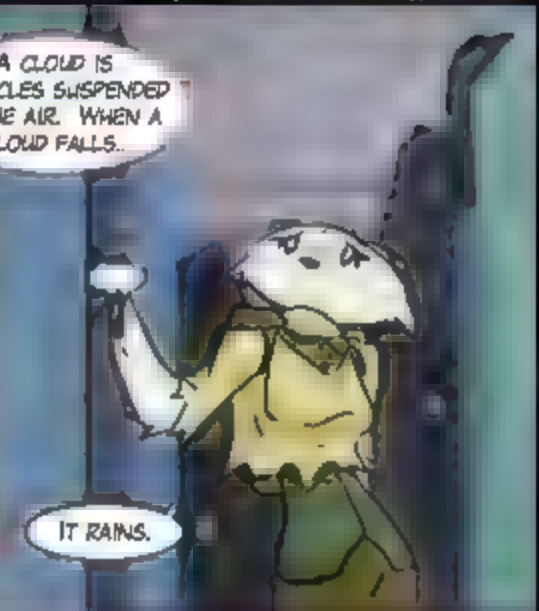
EVEN AS THEY DIED
THEY KNEW IN THEIR HEARTS
THEY DIED ATTEMPTING TO SAVE THE
PLUSH. THE PEOPLE KNEW THE CLOUD WOULD
BE THE END OF THEM IF THEY COULD NOT REMOVE
IT FROM THE HEAVENS. BUT HOW DO
YOU REMOVE A CLOUD
FROM THE SKY?



BIG FANS?
SOME SORT OF GIANT
VACUUM? A GIANT STORM?
I DON'T KNOW



A CLOUD IS
PARTICLES SUSPENDED
IN THE AIR. WHEN A
CLOUD FALLS...



IT RAINS.

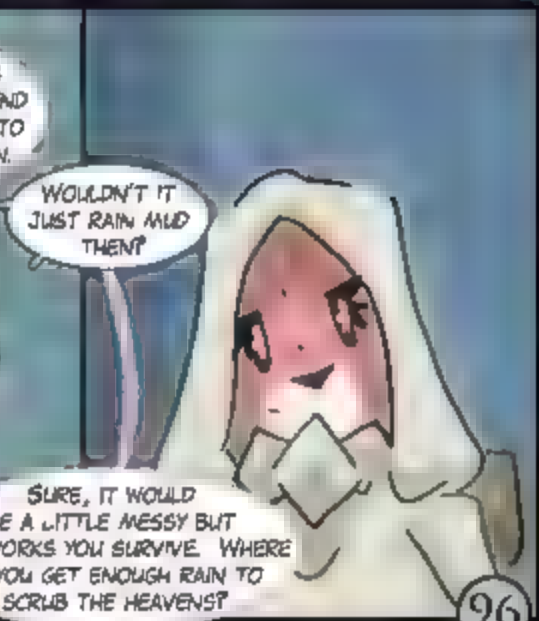


SO YOU MAKE IT RAIN.



BUT ASH IS
NOT WATER.

WHICH MEANS
YOU HAVE TO SEND
SOMETHING UP TO
BRING IT DOWN.



WOULDN'T IT
JUST RAIN AND
THEN?

SURE, IT WOULD
BE A LITTLE MESSY BUT
IF IT WORKS YOU SURVIVE. WHERE
DO YOU GET ENOUGH RAIN TO
SCRUB THE HEAVENS?

SULF-LORIDE, NICKNAMED, NEW DAWN. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS THE STRUGGLING SURVIVORS DEVELOPED, BUT IT WAS THEIR LAST RESORT. THE LINDON LONDON CORPORATION, A GROUP OF MOLECULAR ENGINEERS, DEVELOPED IT. HOW THEY DID IT WHEN THERE WAS BARELY ENOUGH COLLECTIVE ENERGY TO POWER A LIGHT BULB I WILL NEVER KNOW. SOME CALLED IT THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE TERROR. WARNINGS OF THE SLIGHTLY CAUSTIC NATURE OF THE DOWN FALL WERE SPREAD OVER THE LIMITED RADIO NETWORK.



CAUSTIC?



ACIDIC. THE PEOPLE DID NOT CARE. THEY WERE READY TO BUILD A BETTER UMBRELLA. THE TEST ROCKETS WERE LAUNCHED AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A YEAR THE CLOUDS OPENED UP ENOUGH FOR A TRICKLE OF SUNLIGHT WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE WORLD REJOICED. A MONTH LATER FOUR FACTORIES HAD BEEN BUILT BRICK BY BRICK. A MONTH AFTER THAT PRODUCTION OF SULF-LORIDE HAD STARTED

A FEW MONTHS AFTER THAT, IT WAS BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ANY SITE WITH A MISSILE. A MONTH AFTER THAT A DECLARATION OF WORLD PEACE WAS ANNOUNCED AS EVERY MISSILE LEFT WORKING WAS PACKED WITH SULF-LORIDE AND SHOT INTO THE HEAVENS.



DID IT WORK?

SORT OF A DAY AFTER THE LAUNCH THE CLOUDS BEGAN TO THIN, BUT NO SIGN OF RAIN. A WEEK LATER THE SNOW BEGAN TO FALL. THE MEAGER SUNLIGHT HAD LIT THE PLANET FROM FREEZER TO FRIDGE. THE SNOWFLAKES FELL DIRTY, AND BITING. HEAVY FAT FLAKES SCORCHED THE PLANET WITH THE ACIDIC ASH THAT FELL FROM THE SKY. WHAT THE BLAST HAD NOT LEVELED, THE WEATHER HAD NOT WITHERED, AND RADIATION HAD NOT SICKENED, THE SNOW BURNT



IT MELTED EVERYTHING?

IT WAS NOT THAT THE SNOW COULD BURN THROUGH IRON. HELL YOU CAN CATCH ONE ON YOUR TONGUE. TASTES LIKE LICKING A BATTERY WITH A BITE, I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND IT THOUGH. IT WAS NOT ABOUT THE POWER OF THE FLAKE, BUT OF THE POWER OF THE BLIZZARD.

IT SNOWED SO HARD FOR MONTHS THAT IT BURIED BUILDINGS TO THE SECOND STORY. AT THE END OF THE SECOND YEAR THE SKY WAS MUCH CLEARER AND THE SUN SHONE DOWN ON THE BARREN PLANET. THE SEAS HAD BEEN POISONED, VEGETATION ERADICATED, AND LESS THAN HALF OF THE PRE-EVENT POPULATION REMAINED. IT-



WA- JIFF

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!



THEY'LL COME DOWN ONCE THEY GET TIRED OF FIRING ARROWS AT US

WHAT DO YOU MEAN COME DOWN?!

SHOULDN'T WE RUN?!

I'M THE ONE PUSHING YOU! MOVE!



WHAT IF
I GET HIT?

THEY'RE SHOOTING
AT ME, YOU'RE MORE
VALUABLE ALIVE



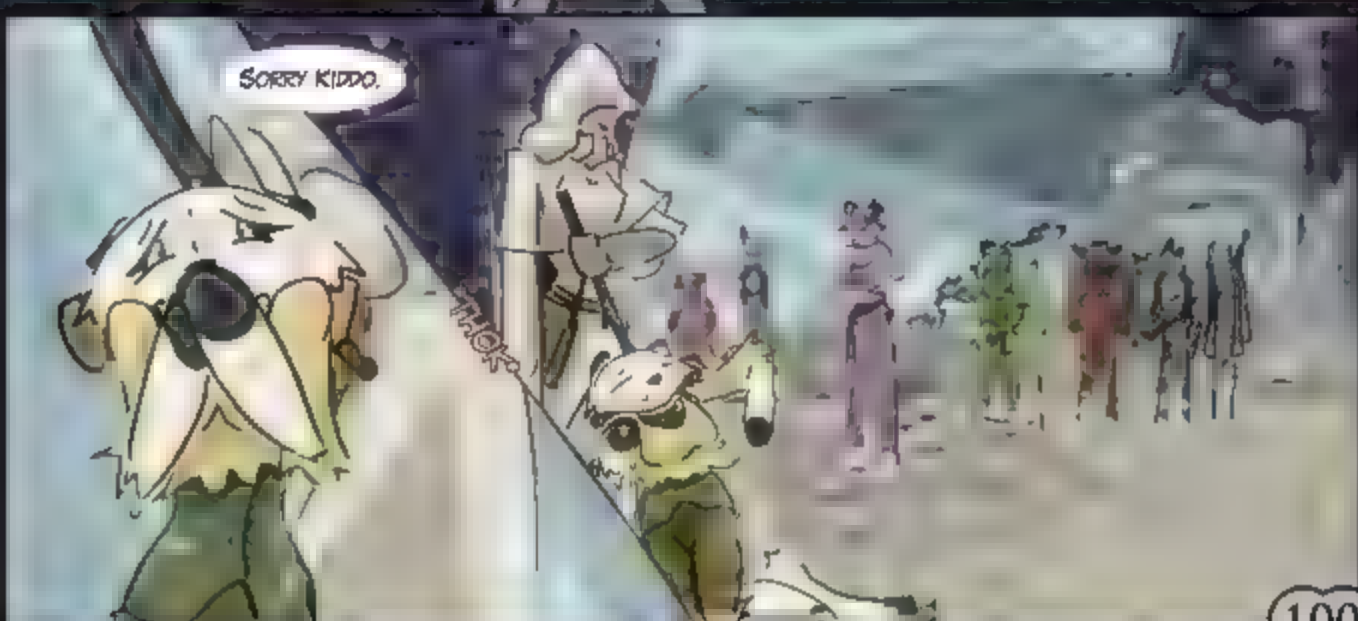


WHERE ARE WE GOING!?

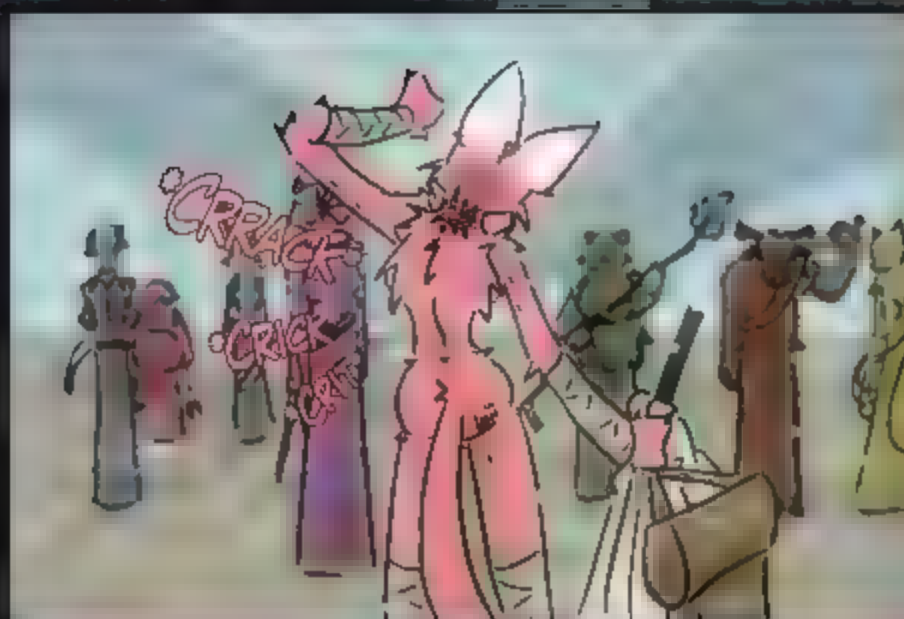
THAT WAY!

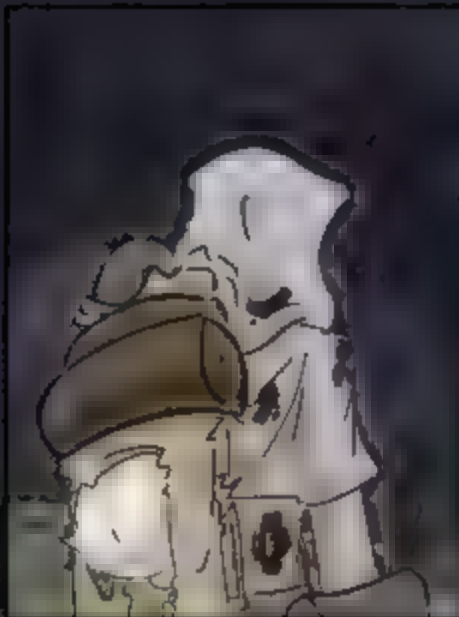


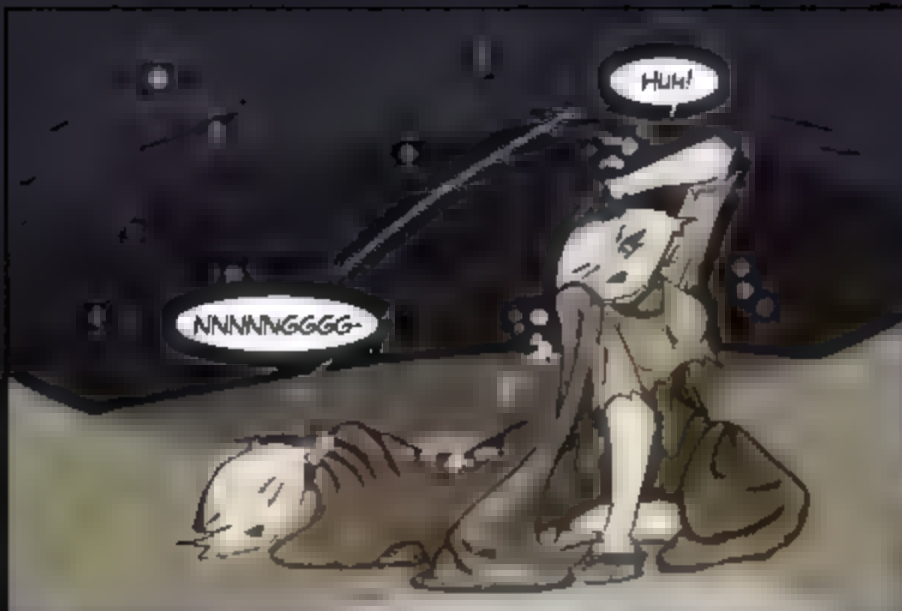
KATT! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW!? WE'RE TRAPPED! THEY'RE GOING TO EAT US! DO SOMETHING! HELP!



SORRY KIDDO.









YOU ARE TREATING
ME LIKE A CHILD! I AM
NOT A CHILD!



YOU'RE THROWING
A TANTRUM LIKE ONE.



HOW DID
YOU GET US OUT
OF THE CITY?



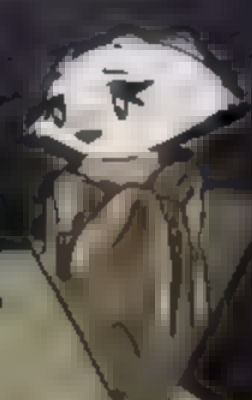
I CULLED THE
POPULATION TO A MORE
MANAGEABLE STATE IN ORDER
TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER CHANCE
OF SURVIVAL AMONGST THOSE
WITH THE GIFT OF LIFE.



WHAT?



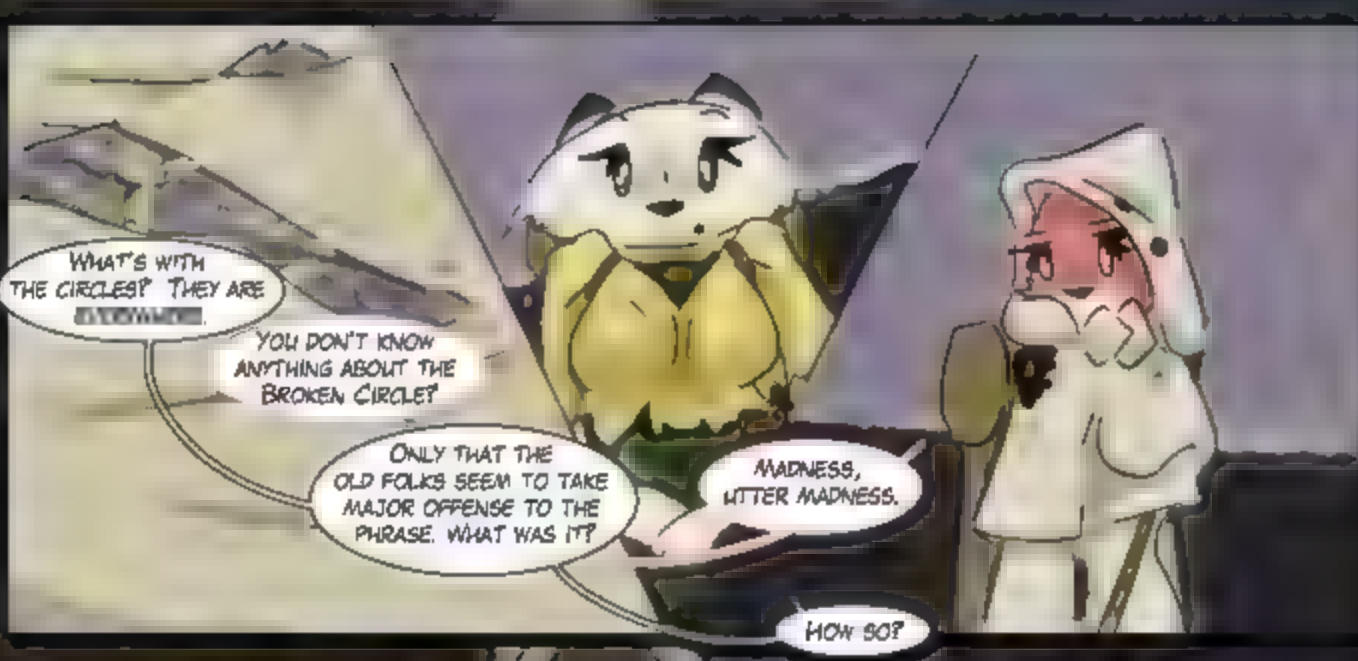
KID THERE ARE
THINGS ABOUT ME THAT
ARE BETTER LEFT
UNDISTURBED



WHO ARE YOU?



JUST A GHOST KID,
A SPECTER OF THE PAST



THIS LOOKS LIKE
THE COMMAND BUNKER.

OH GLEE.

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY.
KEEP THOSE STICKY PAWS OFF
OF EVERYTHING INSIDE. TOUCH
NOTHING, TAKE NOTHING.

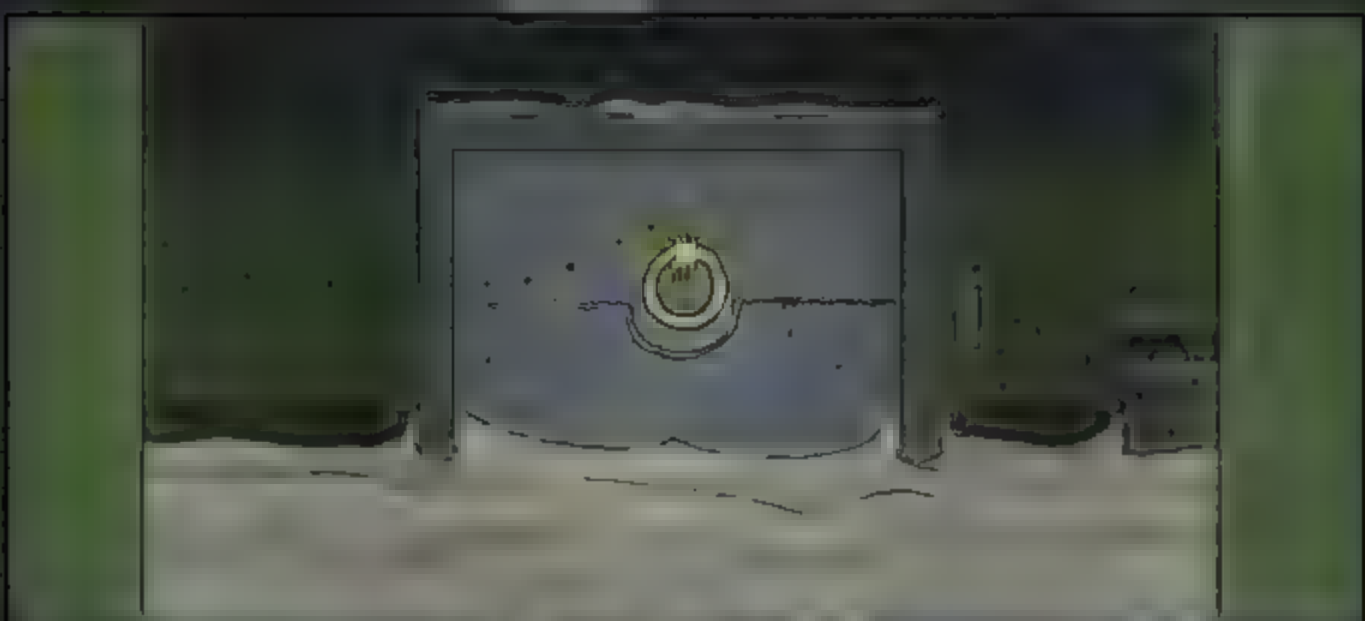
YEAH, YEAH,
I GET IT

NO, YOU DON'T
GET IT, AND THAT IS
WHAT IS GOING TO GET YOU
KILLED. DON'T TOUCH,
ANYTHING.

SMACK

OW! ALRIGHT,
NO NEED TO BE
MY MOTHER

I'M NO ONE'S MOTHER.
PEOPLE NEED TO TAKE CARE
OF THEMSELVES. I DO NOT HAVE
THE TIME NOR INCLINATION
TO RAISE A NEOPHYTE.



AFTER THE CATAclysm THE PEOPLE TURNED ON THE BROKEN CIRCLE. LIKE A PACK OF RABID ANIMALS THEY WENT CRAZY. THEY PUT THEM ALL TO THE SWORD, EVERY LAST BROKEN CIRCLE MEMBER. AN OUTSIDER LOOKING IN WOULD CALL IT A SLAUGHTER; THEY MARKED IT AS A REVOLUTION.

ENTIRE BASES FULL OF BROKEN CIRCLES PEOPLE WERE SEALED UP AND LEFT TO ROT. THE SITES WERE DECLARED OFF LIMITS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH. ANYTHING MARKED WITH THE BROKEN CIRCLE PUNISHABLE BY THE SIZE OF THE CRIME. A RING, YOU LOSE A FINGER, A BRACELET A HAND, YOU GET THE PICTURE.

SO WHY THE HELL ARE WE HERE?

LOOKING FOR INFORMATION.

WHAT KIND?

THE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS KIND.

WELL, HERCULES WHERE ARE YOU NOW



WHATT

COME WITH ME



WELL BETTER
THAN NOTHING
I GUESS.

WHAT'S THIS?



MAINTENANCE SHED,
IT WILL GIVE US A FORM
OF ACCESS TO THE GUTS
OF THIS PLACE.

YOU SEEM TO
KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND
RATHER WELL.



YOU SPEND ENOUGH
TIME IN ONE AND YOU'VE
SPENT ENOUGH TIME
IN THEM ALL.



RATTLE
RATTLE

WELDED.

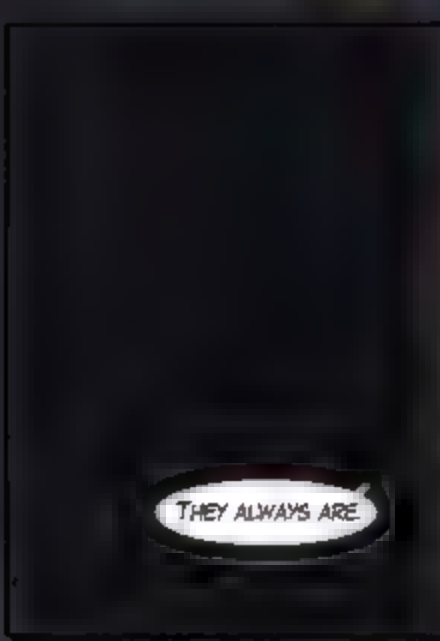
CREEEEEK



GRUNTING



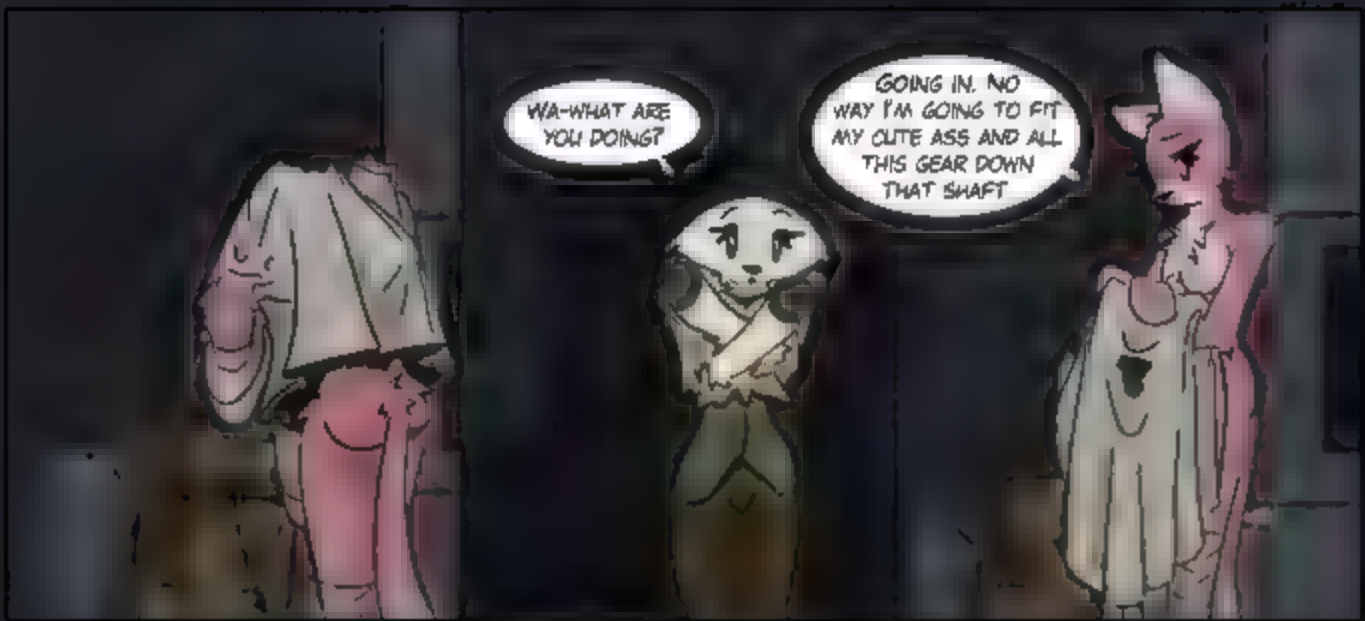
GRUNTING



THEY ALWAYS ARE



TIGHT SQUEEZE



WA-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

GOING IN. NO WAY I'M GOING TO FIT MY CUTE ASS AND ALL THIS GEAR DOWN THAT SHAFT

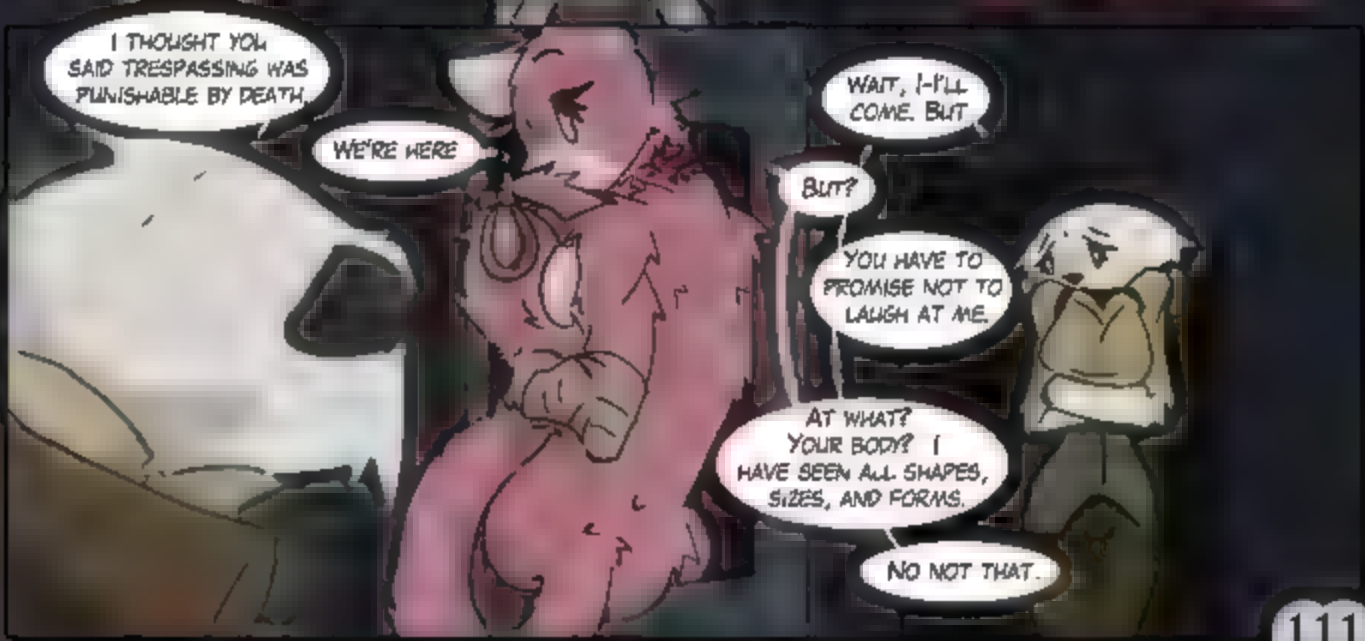


BESIDES ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS GET SNAGGED OR WEDGED ONCE AND YOU ARE VENT FOOD.

SUIT YOURSELF STAND WATCH AND KEEP THE DOOR CLOSED. NO TELLING WHO OR WHAT COULD WANDER IN.

COMING?

IS IT TOO LATE TO SAY I HAVE CLAUSTROPHOBIA?



I THOUGHT YOU SAID TRESPASSING WAS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.

WE'RE HERE

WAIT, I- I'LL COME. BUT

BUT?

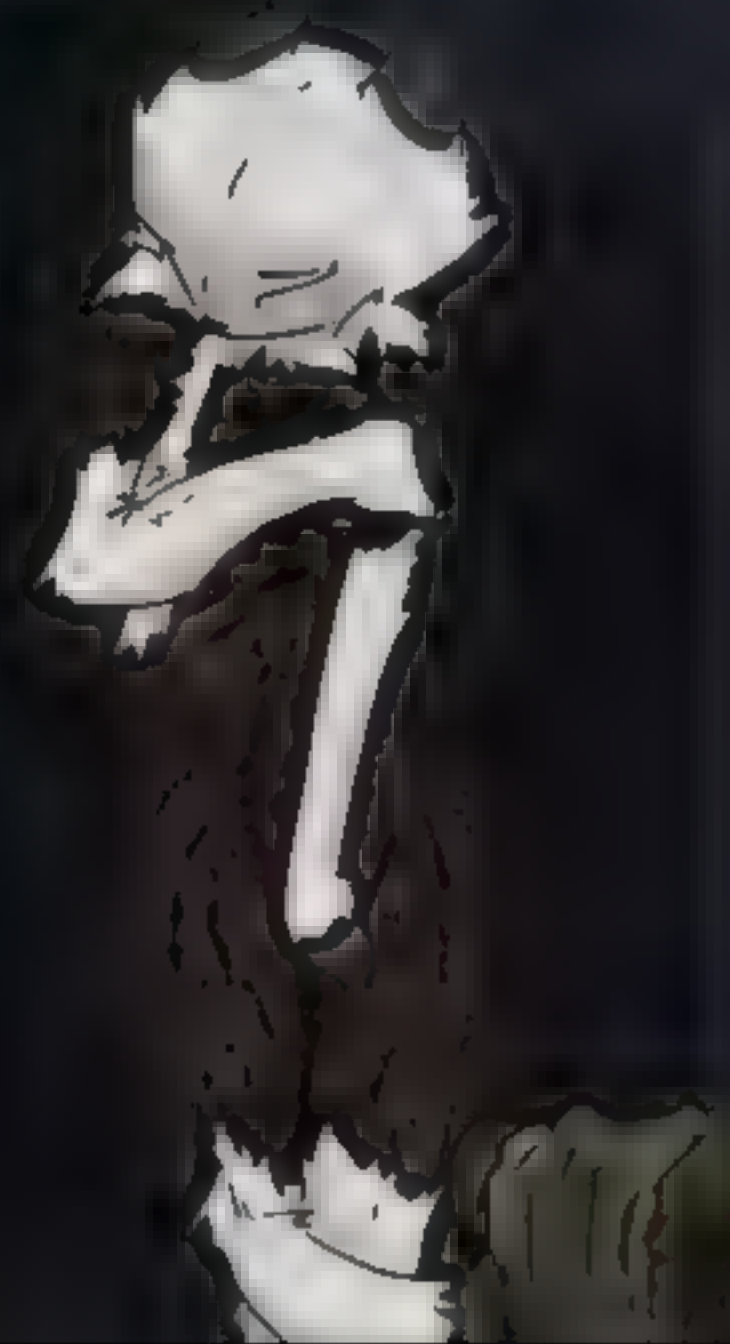
YOU HAVE TO PROMISE NOT TO LAUGH AT ME.

AT WHAT? YOUR BODY? I HAVE SEEN ALL SHAPES, SIZES, AND FORMS.

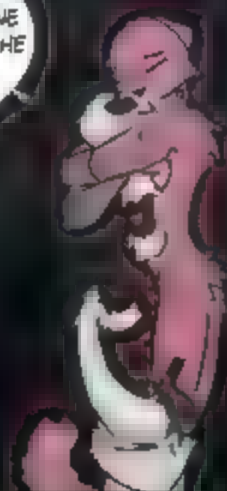
NO NOT THAT.



MY POOR CHILD,
WHAT HAPPENED?



WHEN I WAS YOUNG...
YOUNGER, I BELONGED TO
THIS CO-OP MAYOR. I WAS ONE
OF LITTLE HANDFUL OF MAIDS HE
STUCK IN A HAREM. WE
BELONGED TO THIS
OLD FAT BUCK.



A SIDE INVESTMENT

NOT REALLY, I
GOT LUCKY, THEY WERE
JUST A BLANCH OF OLD PERVERTS
THAT LIKED A LITTLE SQUEEZE
EVERY NOW AND THEN.



HE AND HIS FRIENDS WERE SO OLD THAT THEY COULDN'T HAVE
SPRUNG THE CHIEF WITHOUT DYNAMITE. ONE NIGHT HE AND HIS
BUDDIES GOT REALLY DRUNK. I MEAN THE OLD FAT BUCK PASSED
OUT AND PISSED HIMSELF, GOT IT ALL OVER HIS FAVORITE RUG.



I WAS POSITIVE I WAS GOING TO
GET THE HIDE BEAT OFF ME THE
NEXT DAY FOR IT

THEY HAD GOT HOLD OF A COUPLE
OF THE MAIDS AND WERE TICKLING
THEM AND TEASING THEM, JUST
REAL DUMB SHIT.





ANYWAYS BEING AS
DRUNK AS THEY WERE THEY
EVENTUALLY PUT IT OVER THE LINE.
I WAS DRAGGING THE BUFFOON OFF
THE RUG SO THAT I COULD
ROLL IT UP AND TOSS A
BUCKET ON IT



THE OTHER DRINKS STARTED
JEERING AND THEN COMPLIMENTING
ME ON THE TIP OF MY BLACK TAIL.
AND HOW EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE
A SEXY LITTLE BLACK TIP

SO THEY STARTED SINGING THE
GIRLS' TAILS, MOST GOT OFF WITH
A PUFF OF SCORCHED FUR

WHEN THEY HAD THEIR FUN
WITH THEM THEY BECKONED
TO ME. SAID I HAD SOME
WHITE HAIRS INTRUDING ON
THAT BLACK TIP.



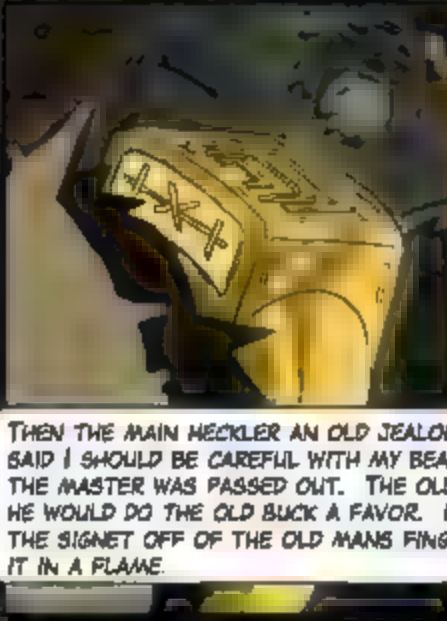
I WAS NOT IN THE MOOD. I
DECLINED AND STARTED TO
ROLL THE RUG UP. ONE OF
THEM SAID I SHOULD HAVE A
DRINK LOOSEN UP



BEFORE I COULD EVEN TAKE A BREATH
TO REPLY THEY CAUGHT ME UP. CLUMSILY
DUMPING WHATEVER EYE ROT THEY WERE
DRINKING ALL OVER ME.



SINGED MY TAIL LAUGHED
AND I WAS FINE.



THEN THE MAIN HECKLER AN OLD JEALOUS GOAT
SAID I SHOULD BE CAREFUL WITH MY BEAUTY WHEN
THE MASTER WAS PASSED OUT. THE OLD GOAT SAID
HE WOULD DO THE OLD BUCK A FAVOR. HE SNATCHED
THE SIGNET OFF OF THE OLD MANS FINGER AND HELD
IT IN A FLAME.



HE'D MAKE SURE NO ONE WOULD
EVER FORGET WHOSE I WAS. THAT
RING HIT MY ASS RED HOT AND LIT
ME UP LIKE A TORCH.



I DON'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING AFTER THAT. I'M SURE
I LIT UP HALF THAT ROOM BEFORE
THEY PUT ME OUT

SALLY .. I'M SO SORRY

THEY PANICKED AND DUMPED ME IN A DITCH FAR OUTSIDE TOWN HOPING
SCAVENGERS WOULD PICK ME APART I REMEMBER COMING AWAKE FOR A MOMENT
ENOUGH TO TURN MY HEAD FROM DIRT TO SKY I REMEMBER THINKING THAT IT WAS
COLD OUTSIDE AND IF I HAD TO GO OUT I WOULD NEED A COAT THE SKY WAS CLOUDY,
BUT I REMEMBER STARS.

I DON'T THINK THEY WERE REAL STARS, THAT CLOUD HAS NEVER
PARTED SO MUCH AS A MOMENT TO LET THE MOON THROUGH.
AFTER THAT I WOKELUP TWO WEEKS LATER STARING AT A DIFFERENT
CEILING. A MAN WHO MADE CANDLES AND LANTERNS AND STUFF
HAD FOUND ME AS HE WAS EXITING THE TOWN.

DID YOU EVER
FIND THEM AGAIN?

NO. I NEVER
TRIED. I HAD RUN FROM
THE CANDLE MAKER THE MOMENT
I COULD MOVE
ON MY OWN.

PLEASE DON'T
STARE.

IT'S OKAY
DARLING. YOU ARE
SAFE WITH ME

THANK YOU
KATT

I BOUNCED AROUND
FROM FAMILY TO HOVEL TO
HANDLERS. TOO UGLY TO WHORE
OUT, TOO ORNERY TO KEEP.
TOO SLIPPERY TO CUT.

Y-YOU TO?

HHMM?

YOUR NECK

SHALL WE.

AH...
HEH, NO... I
DID THAT

WHATT? WHY?

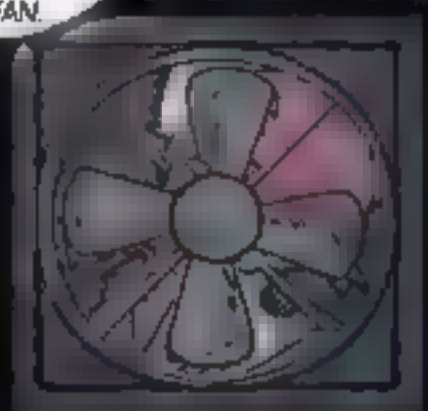
RELIC OF THE PAST
THAT WAS NOTHING
BUT TROUBLE.

THAT MUST
HAVE BEEN PAINFUL.

WE SEEM TO
BE MADE OF PAINFUL
PASTS YOU AND I.

LET'S GO.

HOLD UP.
THIS IS OUR FLOOR.
LET ME REMOVE
THIS FAN.



"WRENT"



"RATTLE"

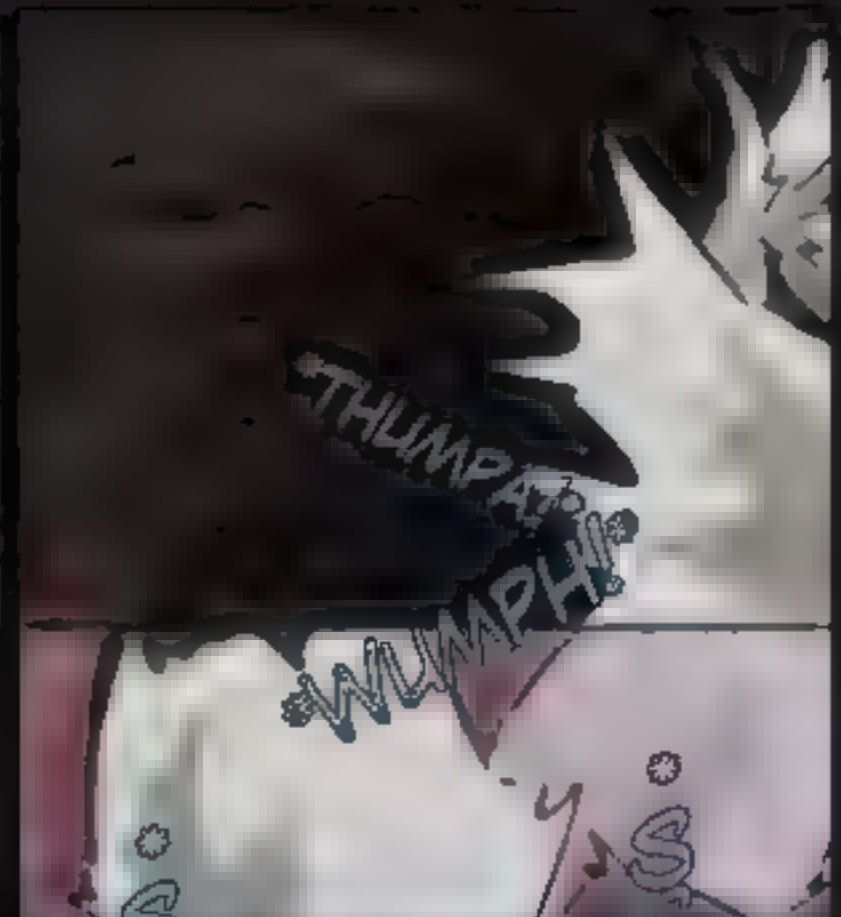
"RATTLE"



"SLIP"



THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

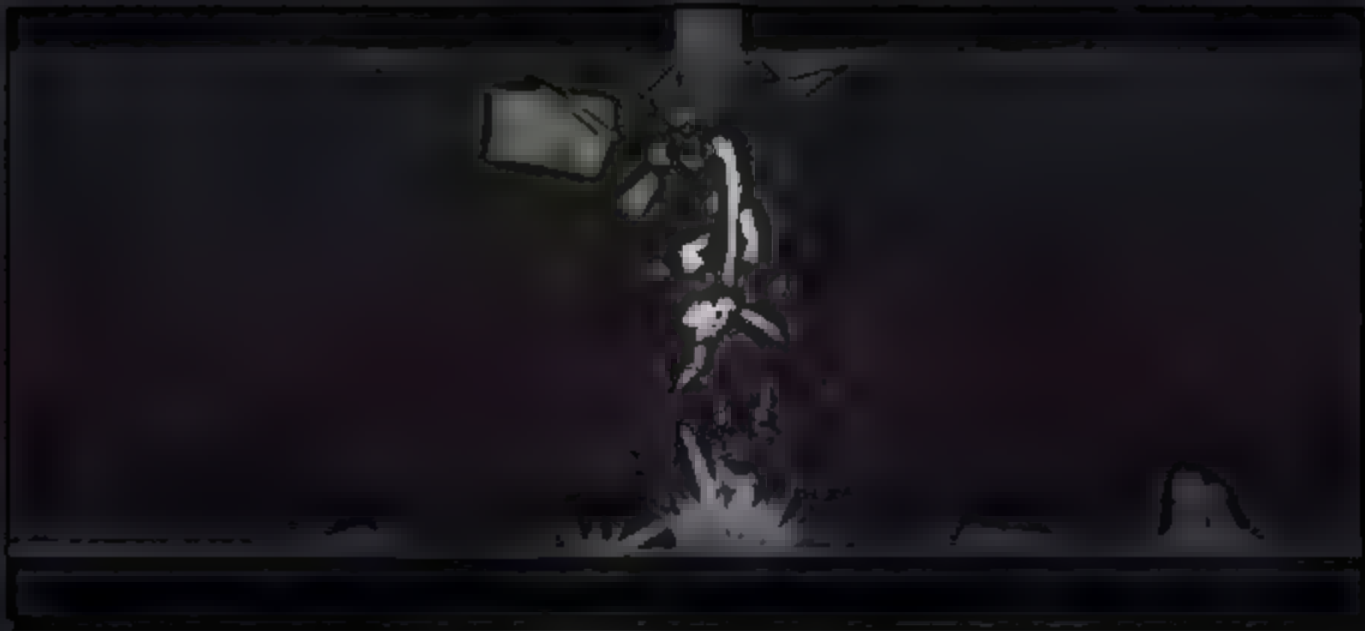


THUMP! THUMP!



THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!



SO DARK
KATT, KATT?
I CAN'T SEE.

KATT?

I'M HERE.
CAN YOU SEE IN
THE DARK?

NO.

"HGH"

"STLE"

WHERE
ARE WE?

BOTTOM FLOOR
MOST LIKELY. TWO OR
THREE FLOORS FROM THE DOOR.
NOT THAT IT DOES
US ANY GOOD

KATT KATT
THERE'S SOMETHING
OUT THERE

LONG DEAD, AND
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.
I WOULD NOT GO FOKING
AROUND. YOU MIGHT FIND
SOMETHING UNPLEASANT
UNDERFOOT

WELL I THINK
WE CAN SAFELY SAY
WE FOUND OUT WHERE ALL
THE BASE EMPLOYEES
GOT OFF TOO.

KATT. KATT
THERE'S SOMETHING
OUT THERE

EASY SALLY,
THEY ARE JUST
BODIES.

THEY ARE TRYING
TO SUFFOCATE ME. KATT
HELP PLEASE HELP. I CAN FEEL
FINGERS TIGHTENING.

SALLY!
SALLY CALM
DOWN.

I CAN FEEL THEM
STARING. THEY ARE
JUDGING ME. IT'S MY BODY,
THEY ARE LAUGHING AT ME.
I HAVE TO GET OUT.

SNAP OUT
OF IT KID



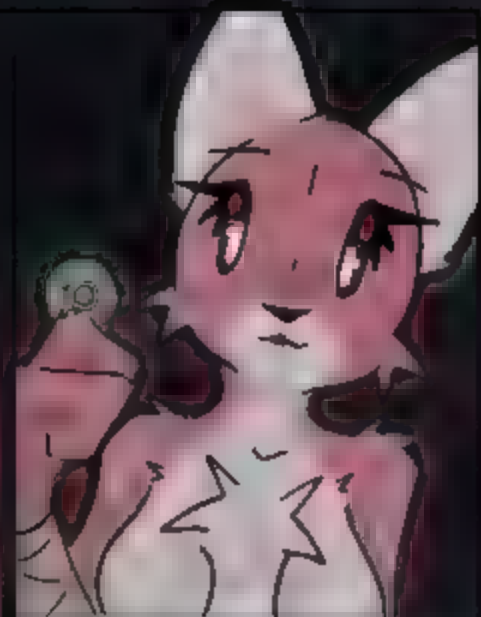
YOU WANT MORE
LIGHT, WOULD THAT MAKE
YOU FEEL BETTER?

YES



STAY HERE,
I DO NOT NEED
THE LIGHT



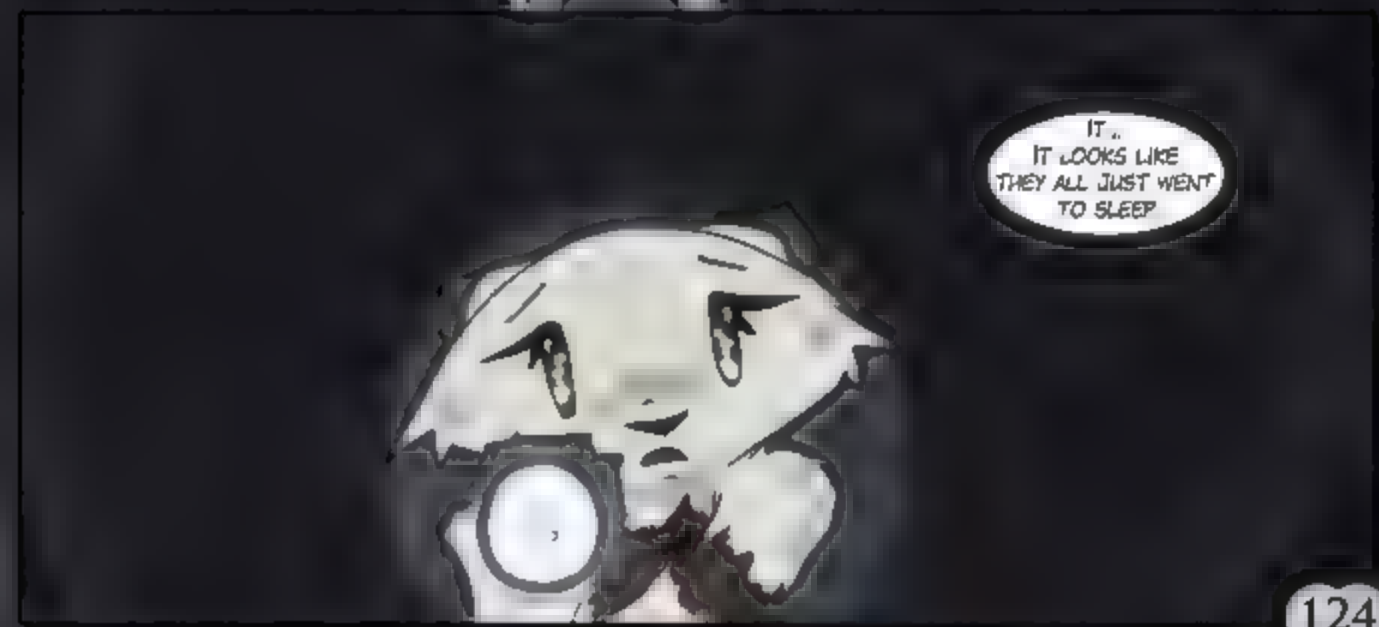




SEE THEY ARE
NOT OUT TO GET YOU
SALLY, THEY DIED SAD
BUT TOGETHER



IT..
IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY ALL JUST WENT
TO SLEEP





GASSED SLOWLY,
WITH EXHAUST OF SOME
KIND. THEY ALL JUST SLOWLY
SUFFOCATED. LOOKED IN AND
NO WHERE TO GO.



I'M GOING
TO BE SICK.



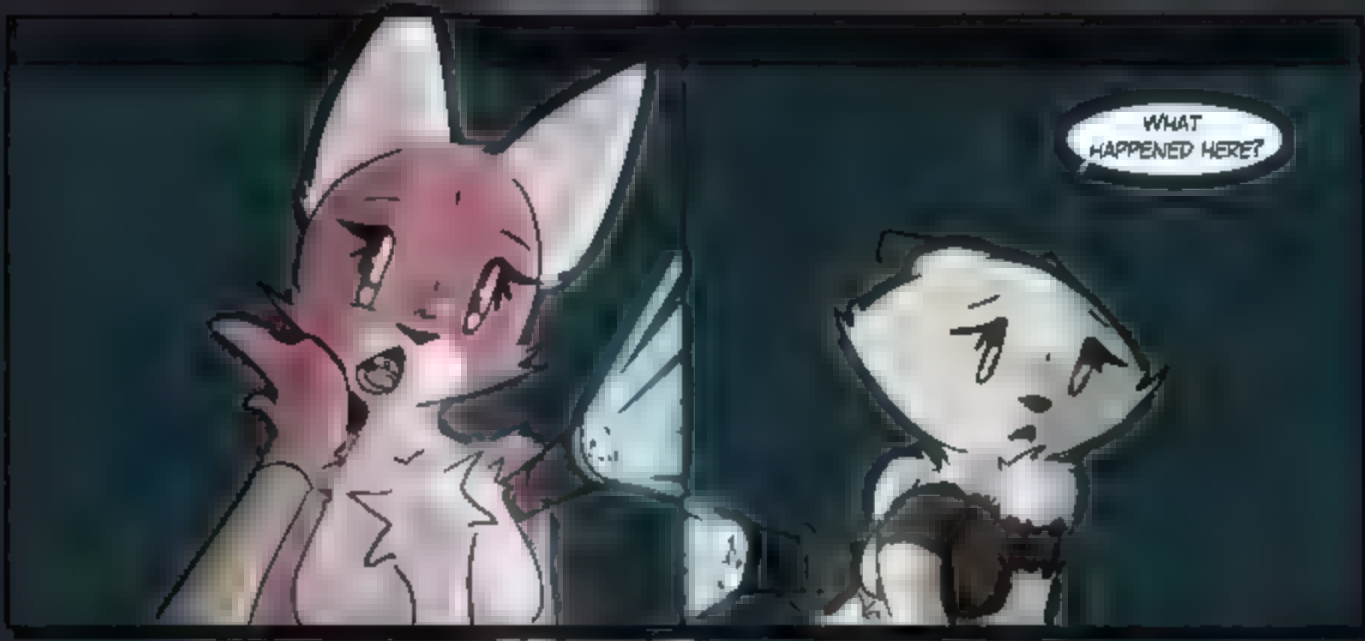
YOU HAVE
ANYTHING LEFT IN
YOUR STOMACH?



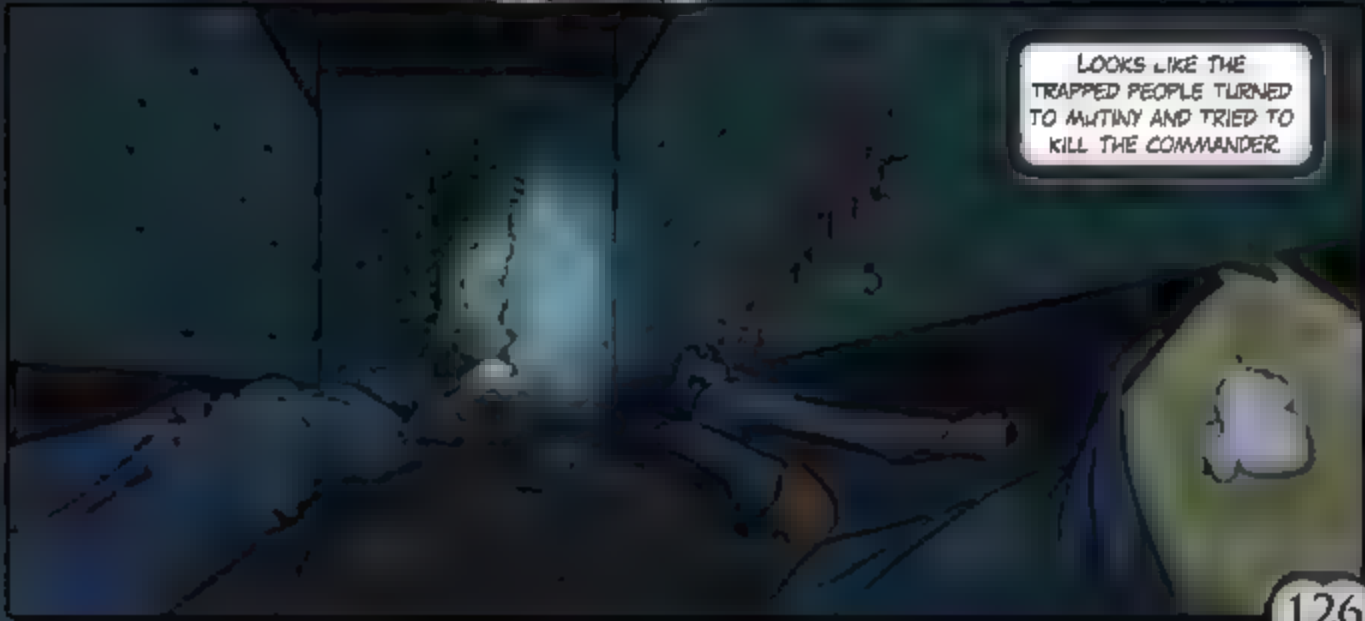
THAT ANSWERS
THAT I GUESS



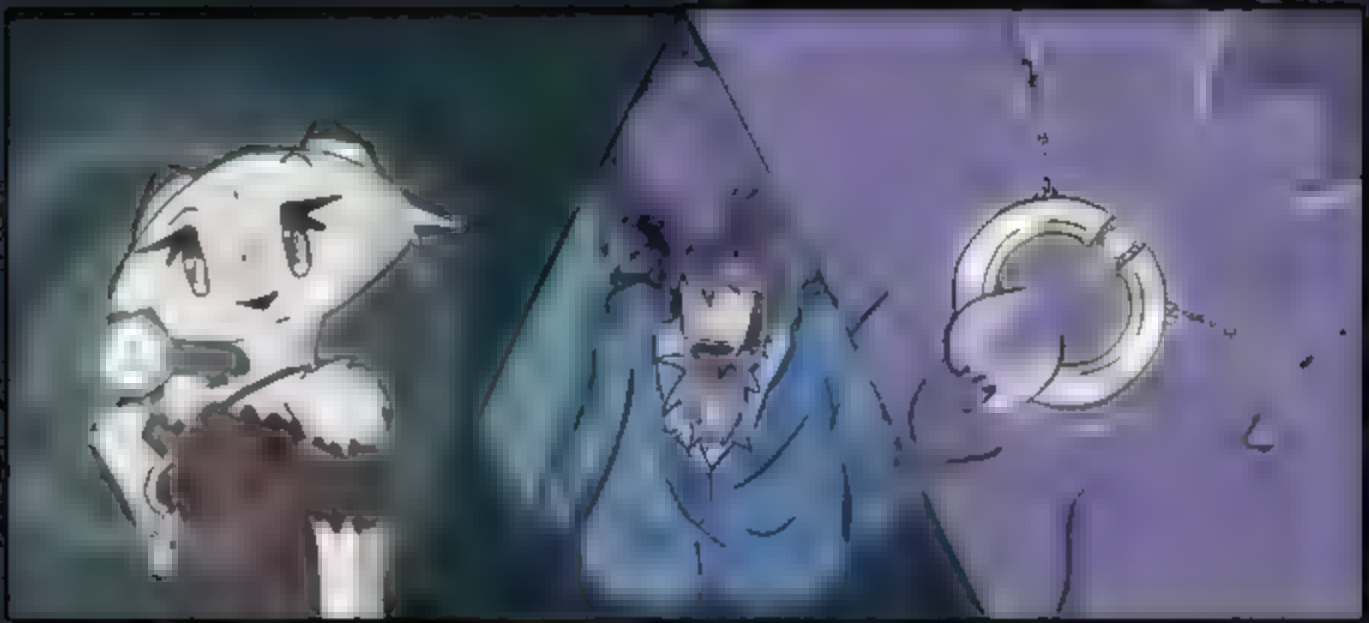
COME ON LETS
FIND THE BASE COMMANDER'S
OFFICE. ACCORDING TO BOSWELL'S
HANDY LITTLE NOTES IT SHOULD
BE TWO FLOORS UP IF WE
ARE AT THE BOTTOM.

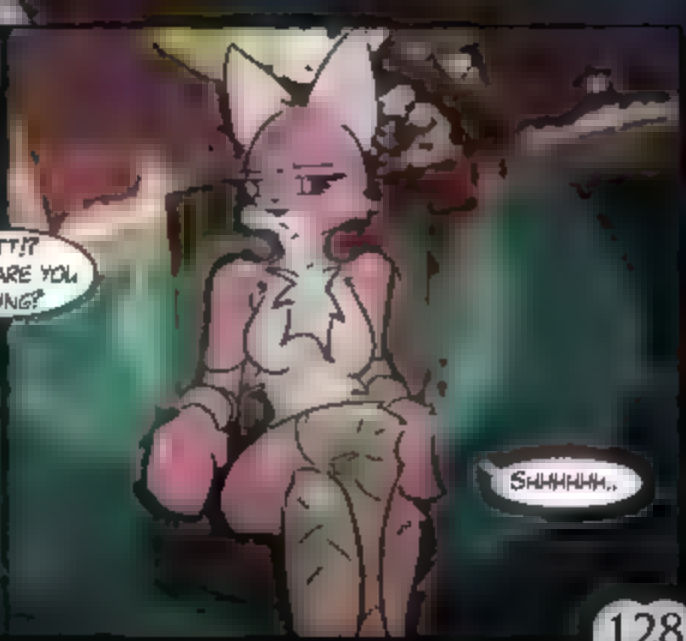
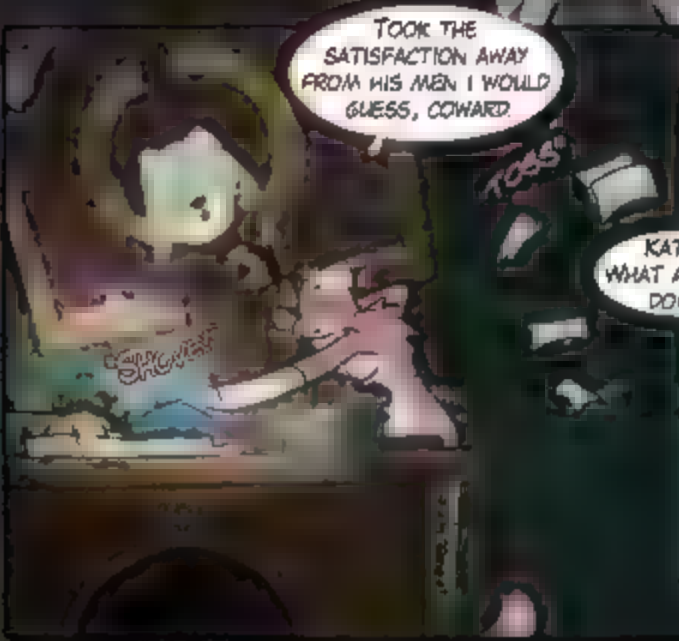
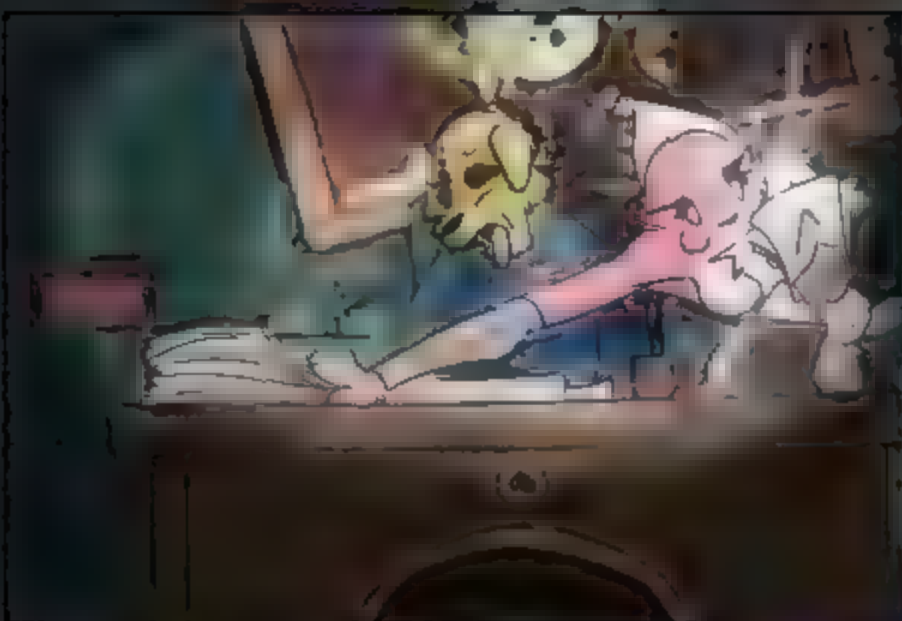


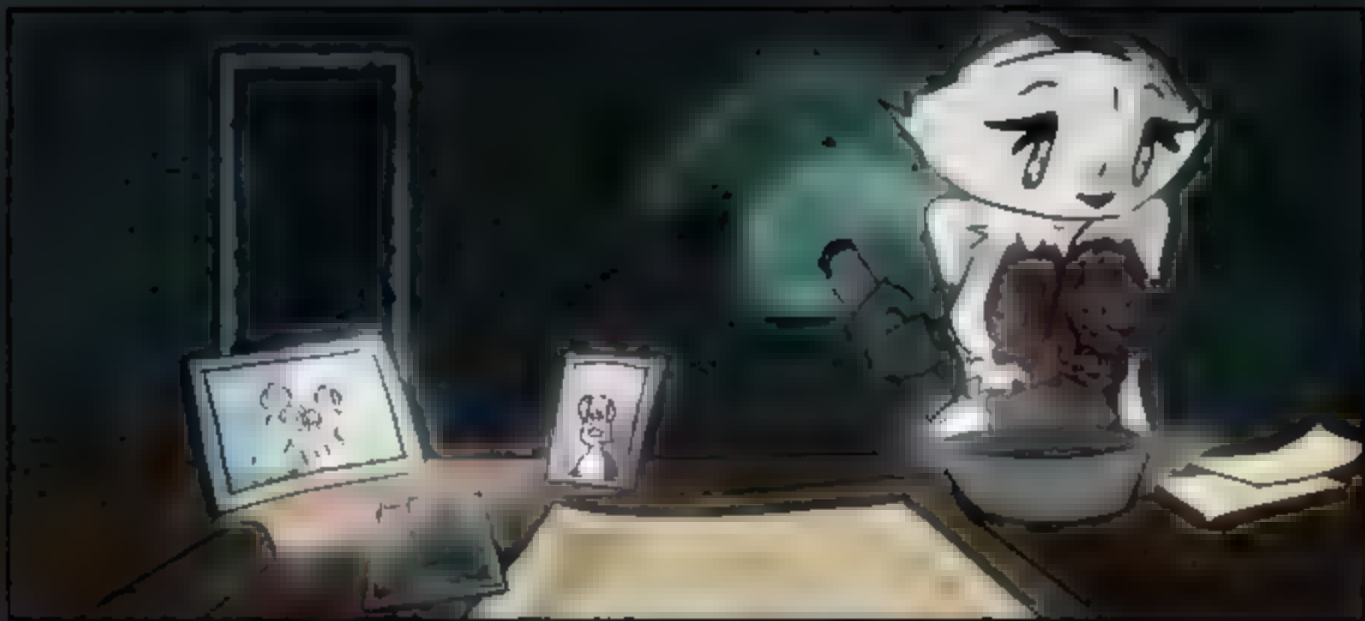
WHAT
HAPPENED HERE?



LOOKS LIKE THE
TRAPPED PEOPLE TURNED
TO MUTINY AND TRIED TO
KILL THE COMMANDER.







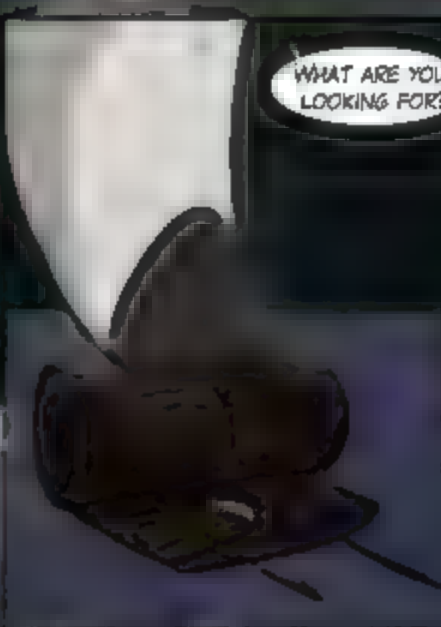




THUMP!



LEAVE IT



WHAT ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR?



SC-SC-SC



SCHEMATIC.



I KNOW!
SCHEMATICS AND OPERATING
MANUAL FOR THE MARK II PADMA
POWER ASSISTED DEFENSIVE
MOBILE ARMOR

DEFENSIVE?
ABOUT AS DEFENSIVE AS
A FIRST STRIKE.

WHAT IS A
MARK II-?

A GIANT MACHINE A
MAN WOULD CRAWL INTO
AND STEP ON HELPLESS
LITTERS OF BATIM.

WHAT?
THAT'S NOT
TRUE.

THE FIRST PART
IS, DO YOU KNOW WHAT
A TANK IS?

YES, I MEAN
I'VE HEARD OF
THEM.

IT WAS A
GIANT WALKING
TANK...

THAT DOES
NOT SOUND NICE





FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS I HAVE LOOKED... NO. NOT LOOKED, SOOURED THIS CONTINENT FOR THE LOCATION OF SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T EXIST



I DON'T GET IT YOU, YOU WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU THOUGHT WASN'T REAL?

HOW MUCH CAN I TRUST YOU WITH KID?

UP UNTIL THIS MORNING I WAS STILL AFRAID OF FINDING YOU GONE. L. I DIDN'T THINK YOU LIKED ME.



DON'T GET ME WRONG KEDDO, I DON'T LIKE OR HATE ANYONE

BUT TRUTH BE TOLD, I AM GROWING RATHER FOND OF YOU

KATT YOU KNOW
I WOULD NEVER PURPOSELY
BETRAY YOU. I, I REALLY
LIKE YOU.

YOU HAVE NO IDEA,
I'M SEVENTEEN, ALMOST TWENTY
AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO
TAKE CARE OF MYSELF

THEN YOU COME ALONG,
POWERFUL, FEARSOME, CLEVER, A
LONE WOMAN. YOU ARE WHAT
I WISH I COULD HAVE BEEN.



ALRIGHT
ENOUGH WITH THE
WATER WORKS KID

YOU CAN TRUST
ME KATT I WON'T TELL,
I'LL BE GOOD. MY WORD ON MY
LIFE YOUR SECRETS ARE
SAFE WITH ME



FOR THE PAST
DECADE I HAVE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR A PLACE.
THE MAN I WAS WITH
LONG AGO.

YOUR
NOT-BOYFRIEND

YES,
MY NOT-BOYFRIEND,
KNEW OF THIS PLACE. A
PLACE THAT COULD ANSWER EVERY
QUESTION I COULD EVER
WANT TO ASK.



WHAT KIND OF
QUESTIONS? IS IT MAGIC?

I SAW A MAGIC
USER ONCE. HE COULD GO
SORT OF SEE THROUGH.

BUT HE WAS
HUNG FOR BEING A DANGER
THEN CHOPPED UP

NOT MAGIC,
TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS
PERTAINING TO
MY PAST

WHICH ARE OFF
LIMITS, I KNOW

RIGHT G-
MY NOT-BOYFRIEND
KNEW OF THE PLACE BUT DID
NOT KNOW ITS EXACT LOCATION.
BEFORE HE LEFT HE GAVE ME
AN OLD JOURNAL.

HALF OF ITS PAGES
HAD BEEN RIPPED OUT, THE REST
BLANK. ONLY A SLIVER REMAINED OF
WHAT HAD BEEN RIPPED OUT
ON IT WAS A LOCATION.

THE LOCATION WAS
NOT THIS PLACE OR EVEN WHAT
I WAS LOOKING FOR. YET IT WAS A
CATALYST. AFTER THAT G-
MY NOT-BOYFRIEND LEFT



WHAT HAPPENED?
WERE YOU ANGRY AT EACH OTHER?
I KNEW THIS BOY ONCE LONG AGO, WE KIND
OF LIKED EACH OTHER, BUT HE ALWAYS MADE
ME SO MAD. OR ...
DID HE DIE?

OH.



NO NOT DEAD,
JUST GONE. NO FIGHTING, I
GUESS IT WAS JUST OUR TIMES
TO PART COMPANY, LIKE A BIDAN
KICKING ITS CHICKS OUT
OF THE NEST



AFTER HE LEFT I WENT TO THE LOCATION IN THE JOURNAL.
ONLY TO FIND A BUNKER SUCH AS THIS, BACK THEN THEY
WERE STILL A BIT MORE POPULATED. I WAS A DUNCE THEN
AND GOT MYSELF CAPTURED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. LUCKILY,
OR UNLUCKILY DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THEY
TOSSED ME IN THE BRIG. ABOUT AN HOUR LATER THE PLACE
WAS ON FIRE AND OVER RUN WITH ANTI BROTHERS

REBELS



NO JUST A PEOPLE WITH A COMMON CAUSE. SEEING
THAT I WAS IMPRISONED THEY ASSUMED AN ENEMY OF
THEIR ENEMY IS A FRIEND OF MINE. THEY RELEASED
ME AS THEY BURNED THE COMMANDER ALIVE IN THE
CELLS. I GOT MY FIRST ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MY
UNICORN'S EXISTENCE WITH HIS FINAL WORDS.

"YOU WILL ALL BE PAWNS AGAIN.
YOU MAY HAVE DESTROYED THE MIND,
BUT THE KNOWLEDGE REMAINS.
HAHAHAHAHA"



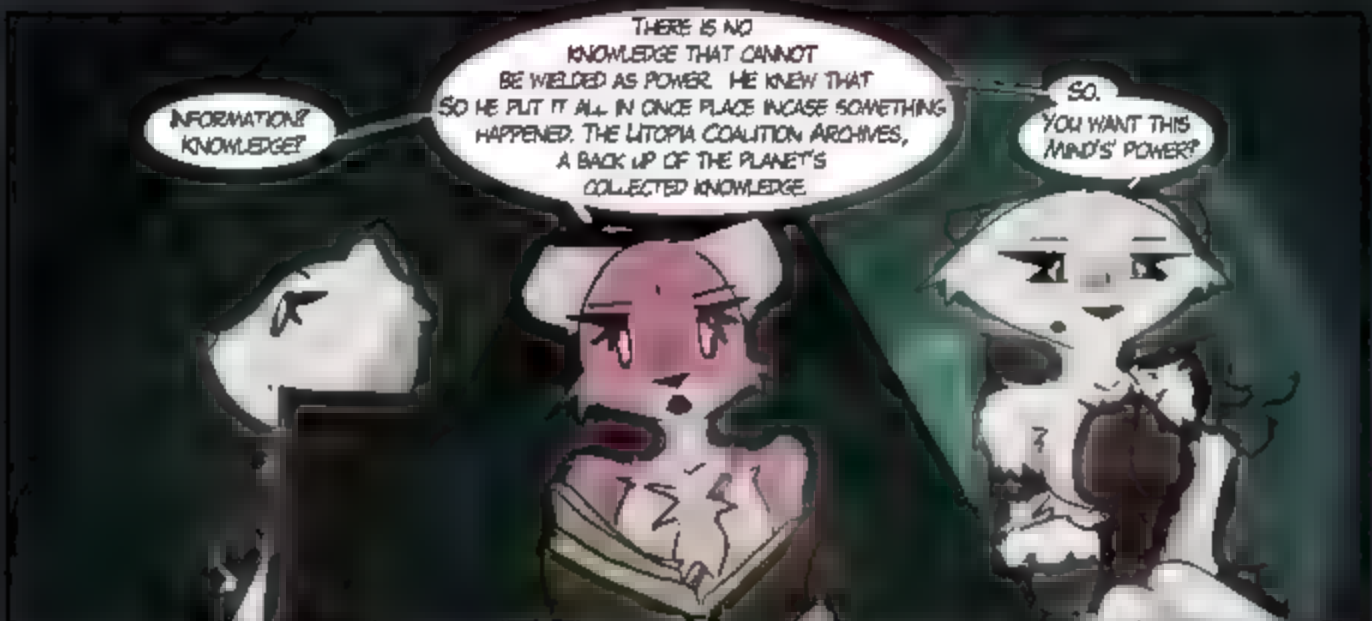
THAT COULD
MEAN ANYTHING.

NOT TO ME.
I KNEW WHAT HE MEANT
AND IF YOU HAD KNOWN THE MIND
HE SPOKE OF IT COULD HAVE
ONLY BEEN ONE THING

A BACK UP PLAN.

AND NO BACKUP PLAN
WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT
BACKING UP EVERYTHING.

ALL KNOWLEDGE,
INFORMATION, HISTORY, MEDICAL
RECORDS, ECONOMIC REPORTS,
ANYTHING THAT COULD EVER BE
USEFUL EVERYTHING TO RESTART
A KINGDOM.



INFORMATION?
KNOWLEDGE?

THERE IS NO
KNOWLEDGE THAT CANNOT
BE WIELDED AS POWER. HE KNEW THAT
SO HE PUT IT ALL IN ONE PLACE IN CASE SOMETHING
HAPPENED. THE LUTOPIA COALITION ARCHIVES,
A BACK UP OF THE PLANET'S
COLLECTED KNOWLEDGE.

SO.
YOU WANT THIS
MIND'S POWER?



NO, BY ALL THE GODS
NO. I'LL PROBABLY LEAVE THE
PLACE AFTER MY QUESTIONS ARE
ANSWERED. NO ONE ELSE SHOULD
HAVE ACCESS TO THAT
MUCH POWER.

SO WHO IS
THIS ALL POWERFUL
MIND?



YOU KNOW
WHY EVERYTHING IS
THE WAY IT IS?

THE EVENT,
OR JUDGMENT FROM
GOD AS THE OLD
ONES SAY

JUDGMENT FROM
THE DEVIL WOULD BE
MORE APPROPRIATE.

HUFF

YOU KNOW
WHY THE EVENT
HAPPENED?



NOO

WE CAN SAY
IT IS WHAT GIVES US
LIFE. A COMPANION
TO THE SOUL.

SURE

WELL LET'S SAY ONE
DAY SOMEONE FOUND A WAY
TO TAKE YOUR STUFFING
AND ADJUST IT

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

LET'S SAY THE MAN
ADJUSTS IT JUST ENOUGH TO
MAKE IT SO YOU LIVE LIFE NORMALLY,
BUT AT THE DROP OF A HAT YOU WILL OBEY
HIS EVERY COMMAND. YOU HAVE NO
CHOICE TO COMPLETE THE TASK
FROM BAKING A PIE TO STABBING
YOUR FATHER TO DEATH.

THIS DOES NOT SOUND
POSSIBLE. I WOULD NEVER STAB
MY FATHER AND NOTHING COULD
MAKE ME. NEVER

YES, YOU WOULD.
THERE WOULD BE NO CHOICE
IN THE MATTER

NOW IMAGINE
THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW
YOU HAVE BEEN.

STUFFED, AS IT WERE. IMAGINE THAT YOU DID
NOT KNOW ANYONE AROUND YOU IS STUFFED.
NOW IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD TAKE FOR THE
STUFFED TO CONTROL THOSE WHO AREN'T
NO GUNS, NO KNIVES, NOT EVEN A THREAT
LIKE A FLOCK, IF THE STUFFED MOVE SUBTLY
ALL IN ONE DIRECTION THE UNSTUFFED WILL
FOLLOW

THE WORDS OF YOUR FRIEND IS ALL IT TAKES. YOU
LIKE A PICTURE AND HE DOESN'T. HE TRIES TO
CONVINCE YOU OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS, BUT
STILL YOU ARE NOT PERSUADED. HE GOES TO YOUR
FRIENDS, ONE AGREES, AND THEN ANOTHER. YOU
RETHINK YOUR STANCE AS YOUR FRIENDS
REGURGITATE HIS ARGUMENT YOU CONVINCE
SOMEONE TO HATE IT JUST TO MAKE YOURSELF
FEEL LIKE PART OF THE CLUB. SOON THE FIVE OF
YOU TURN TO TWENTY, TWENTY TURNS TO
HUNDREDS. COUNTLESS OTHERS NOW BELIEVE WHAT
YOU PRETEND TO BELIEVE, YOU ARE NOT SURE IF
THEY FOUND OUT FROM YOU OR IF THEY HATED IT
FROM THE BEGINNING. SOME HAVE NEVER SEEN IT
BUT STAND ON THEIR SOAPBOX AND CHANT, BAD,
BAD, BAD. YOUR TINY INSIGNIFICANT BETRAYAL OF
SOMETHING YOU ENJOYED, IS ALL IT TAKES.

THAT WOULD CAUSE ME
TO WET MYSELF IF IT SOUNDED
POSSIBLE. BUT IT'S... IT'S NOT YOU
CAN'T ALTER A PLUSH'S STUFFING,
IT'S WRONG.



THAT MY DEAR IS WHAT
NEARLY SEVEN BILLION TOLD
THEMSELVES EVERY DAY. BUT THE
BOOGY MAN, THE PUPPET MASTER WAS
REAL IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE ME
MENTION, PRESIDENT BROWN
BY NAME.



YOU WILL HAVE
YOUR NECK IN A NOOSE
FASTER THEN THE FRIGHTENED
PISS COULD RUN DOWN
YOUR LEG.



I DON'T
FEEL WELL.

TAKE IT EASY KID.
THE MAN AND MOST OF
HIS KINGDOM WAS BLASTED
TO ATOMS.



BUT YOU SAID
IT WAS BACKED UP



IN A PLACE
THAT DOES NOT
EXIST



WHAT IF SOMEONE'S
ALREADY FOUND IT?



NOT LIKELY, IT'S
CLASSIFIED AS AAA. ONLY A
HANDFUL HAVE ACCESS AND EVEN LESS
KNOW OF THE LOCATION. YOU CAN COUNT
THEM ON YOUR HAND. IT TOOK ME TWO
YEARS TO FIND COMMANDER
JEREMY HERE.



HE WAS NOT EVEN LISTED
AMONG THE AAA RANKED LIST I HAD
ACQUIRED. HE WAS ACTUALLY A AAA
MOLE SENT DOWN THE CHAIN TO
INVESTIGATE A AA GENERAL



HOW DO YOU
KNOW ALL THIST



I DO NOT THINK YOU
QUITE GRASP WHAT I HAVE BEEN
DOING. FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS
I HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT
SEARCH FOR THIS PLACE.

I HAVE COME UP WANTING
MORE TIMES THAN THERE ARE SANDS ON
A BEACH. FELT THE STING OF HOPELESSNESS
AND FAILURE FOR TEN YEARS. EVERY TIME
I GOT A HINT OF A HINT IT
WOULD EVAPORATE



EVERY BASE, BUNKER, AND
BROKEN CIRCLE BUILDING I ENTERED
HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY RAIDED AND RAZED
TO THE GROUND. EVERY BROKEN CIRCLE
ARTIFACT A CURSE THAT WOULD GET
YOU RAPED AND QUARTERED IF
THEY WERE FEELING KIND.

ACID SNOW, RADIATION,
PLAGUE, PESTILENCE, CANNIBALS,
CONVOY, SLAVERS, KILLERS, RAPISTS,
AND EVERY LOON OUT THERE WILING TO
TAKE WHAT YOU OWN AND LEAVE
YOU BROKEN IN A DITCH.



THIS MIGHT SEEM LIKE
LUCK TO YOU, THE FIRST ADVENTURE
INTO FORBIDDEN TERRITORY COMPLETE WITH
BODIES, AN ETHICAL TRAGEDY, GENOCIDE, EVILS
ABOUND, AND WE JUST HAPPEN TO FIND WHAT
WE NEED. TO ME MY DEAR, THIS COULD
HAVE BEEN THE HUNDREDTH OR
THOUSANDTH BUNKER I HAVE
CRAWLED THROUGH.

TOO MANY CORPSES
TO COUNT, TOO MANY FAILURES
AND FUCK-UPS THAN I CAN ADMIT TO.
TOO MANY TIMES I HAVE SAT IN A DUSTY
CORNER LIKE THAT AND CRIED. NOT
THIS TIME, I AM NOT THE LUCKY
ONE KIDDO, YOU ARE.

I AM SORRY,
I DID NOT UNDERSTAND.

SNIFFLES

KATT?

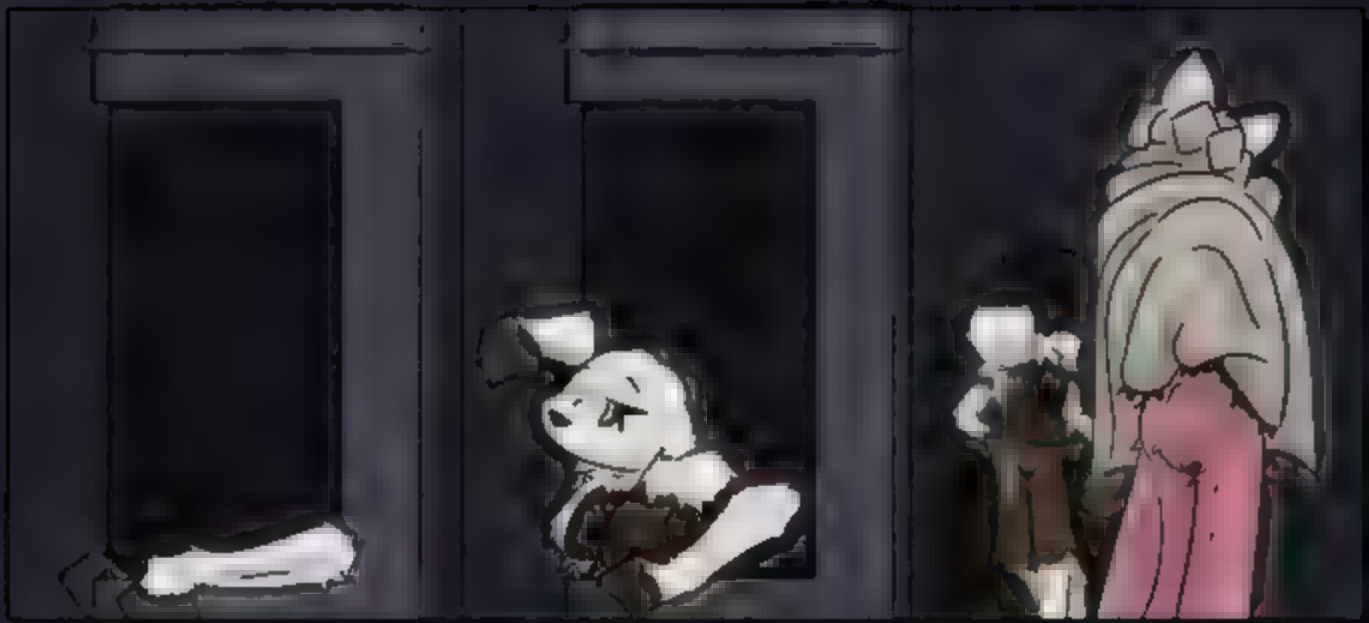
YES?

PLEASE TAKE ME
WITH YOU TO THE... AH...
ARCHIVES. I-I NEED YOU. I
KNOW YOU DON'T NEED ME BUT,
I... I NEED YOU. I'M NOT STRONG,
OR SMART, OR EVEN ATTRACTIVE
ENOUGH TO SURVIVE
ON MY OWN.

I CANNOT PROMISE
ANYTHING SALLY. BUT YOU CAN
FOLLOW AS LONG AS YOU NEED. IT
WILL NOT BE SAFE, I WILL NOT LIE TO YOU.
WE MAY BOTH FIND OURSELVES WITH OUR
TAILS MISSING FACE DOWN IN A
DITCH TOMORROW.

THE TIME
WILL COME WHEN WE
MAY HAVE TO PART WAYS, BUT
AS LONG AS YOU CAN, YOU
MAY COME WITH ME

THANK YOU KATT.
I PROMISE I WILL BE GOOD
AND LISTEN. I PROMISE TO
BE QUIET, THANK YOU.





ANYTHING ELSE?

YOU DON'T TRUST ME! YOU WANT TO SEARCH ME?

NO, I BELIEVE YOU KID DON'T BETRAY THAT



I KNOW YOU DON'T TRUST ME, STUPID SALLY COULD NOT POSSIBLY DO ANYTHING RIGHT

I KNOW YOU DON'T REALLY WANT ME ALONG, I KNOW YOU CALL ME KID CAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY MY NAME



YOU ARE AFRAID IF YOU SAY MY NAME YOU WILL START TO LIKE ME!

SALLY SALLY!

SIGH



I AM SORRY
FOR NOT TRUSTING
YOU SALLY

NO IT'S OK KATT
I SHOULD NOT HAVE SAID
THOSE THINGS. I WAS MAD BUT
YOU WERE ONLY TRYING
TO PROTECT ME



WE WILL SPEND
A NIGHT IN HARRISVILLE
AFTER WE RESUPPLY. I HAVE
SOME MORE BUSINESS TO ATTEND
TO ALONE. I TRUST YOU
WILL BE FINE ON
YOUR OWN

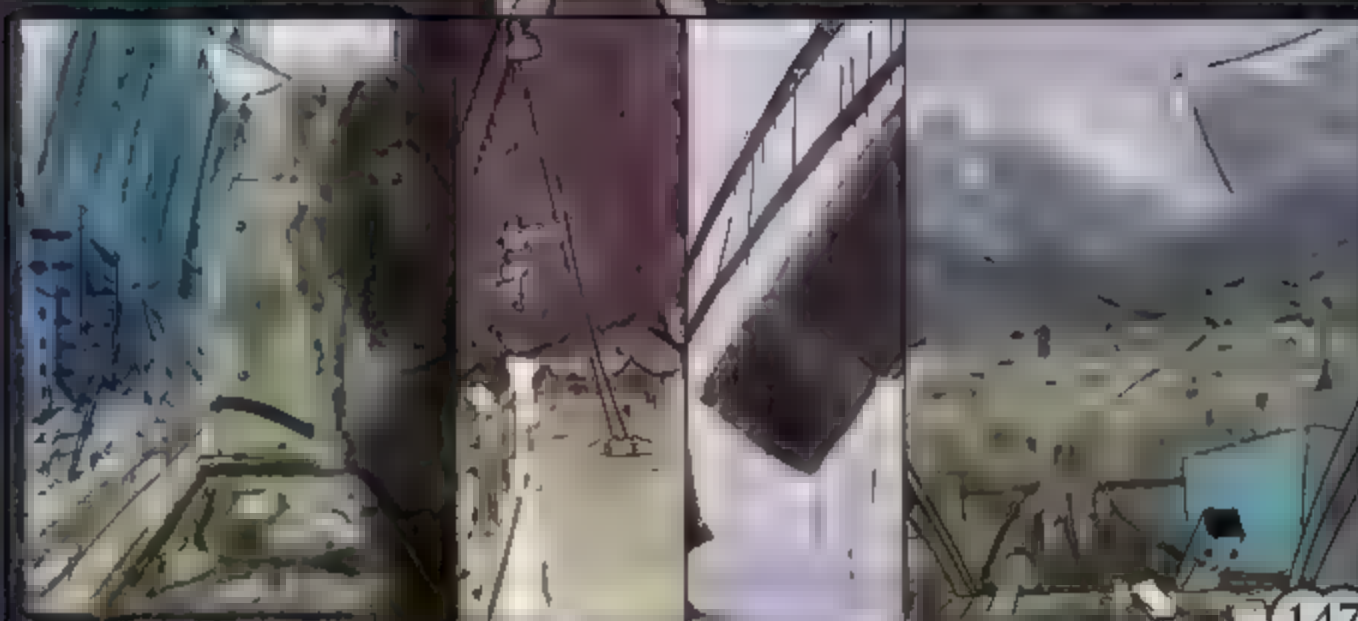
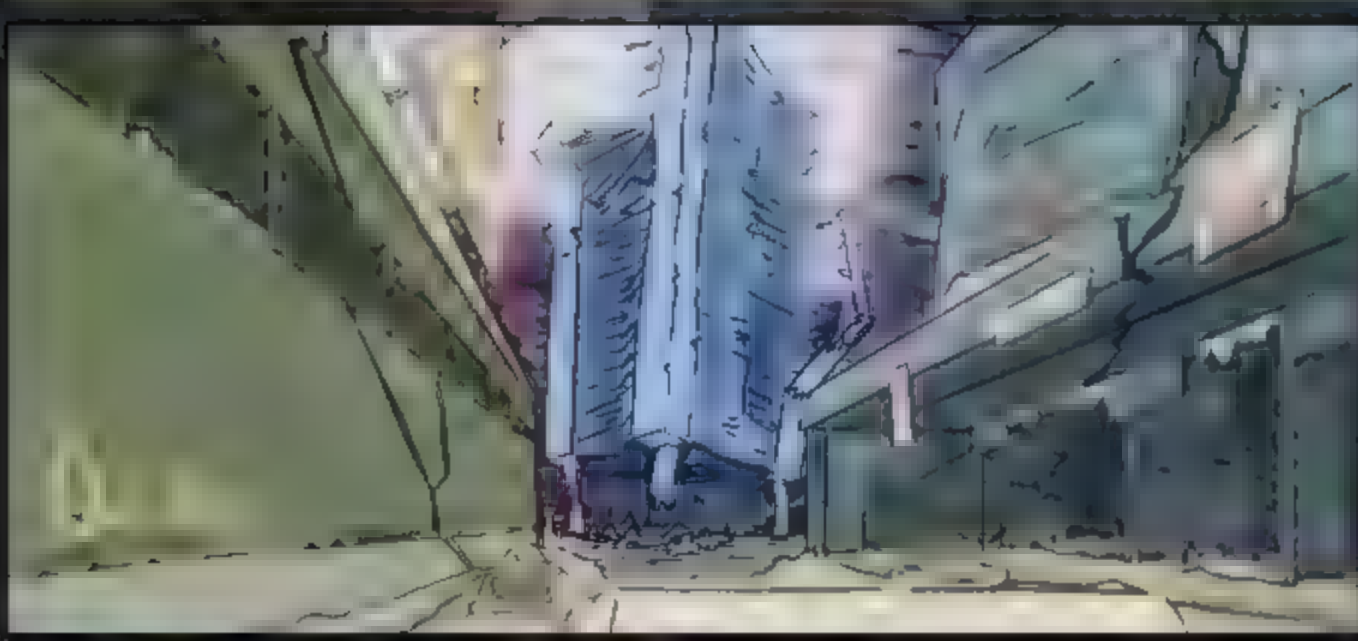
YES,
I'LL BE FINE.



SALLY BE CAREFUL
THE SLAVERS DO NOT CARE
IF YOU ARE RICH, POOR, IMPORTANT
OR WORTHLESS. THEY WILL TAKE YOU
IN A HEARTBEAT IF YOU GIVE
THEM A CHANCE

I'LL BE
CAREFUL KATT

GOOD GIRL



STRAIGHT FROM YOUR OWN
HARRISVILLE CO-OP! CLEAN WHEAT!
TESTED 100 MREM IN CLEAN
COALITION SOIL!

LOT TWELVE IS PLANT FREE
YOUNG TEN FOUR AND TWENTIES
GOOD INSIDE TONS NO DAMAGE
OPENING OFFER

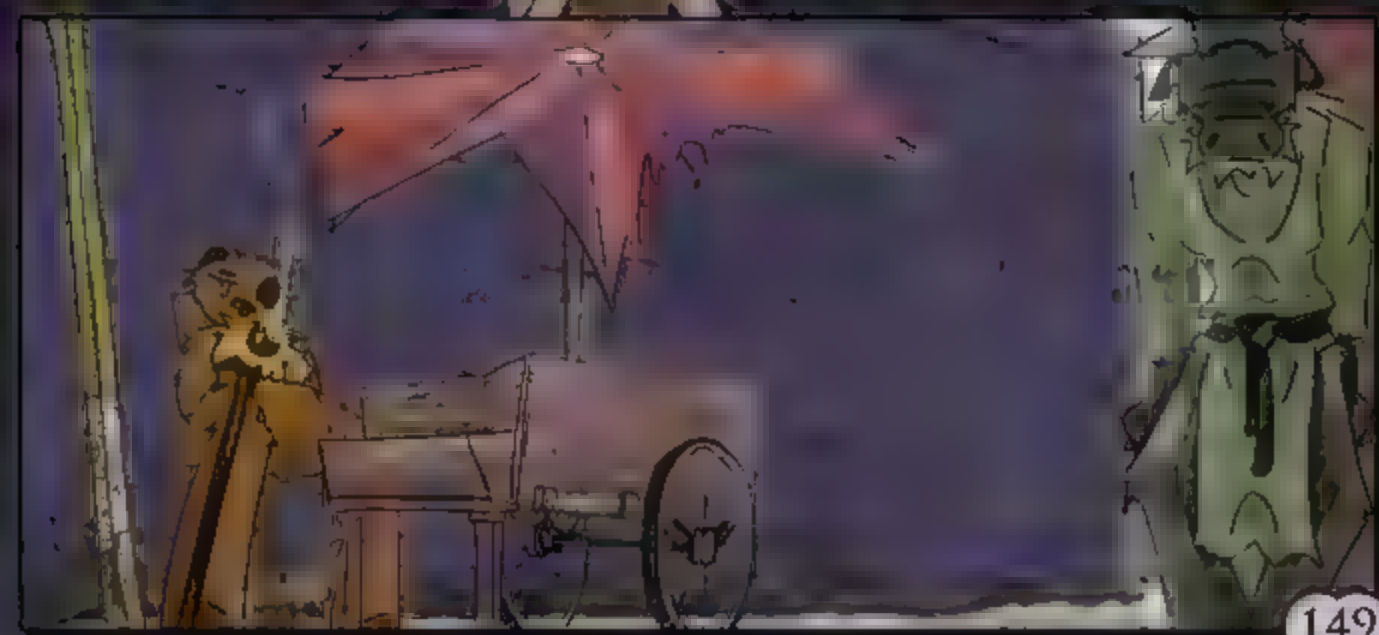
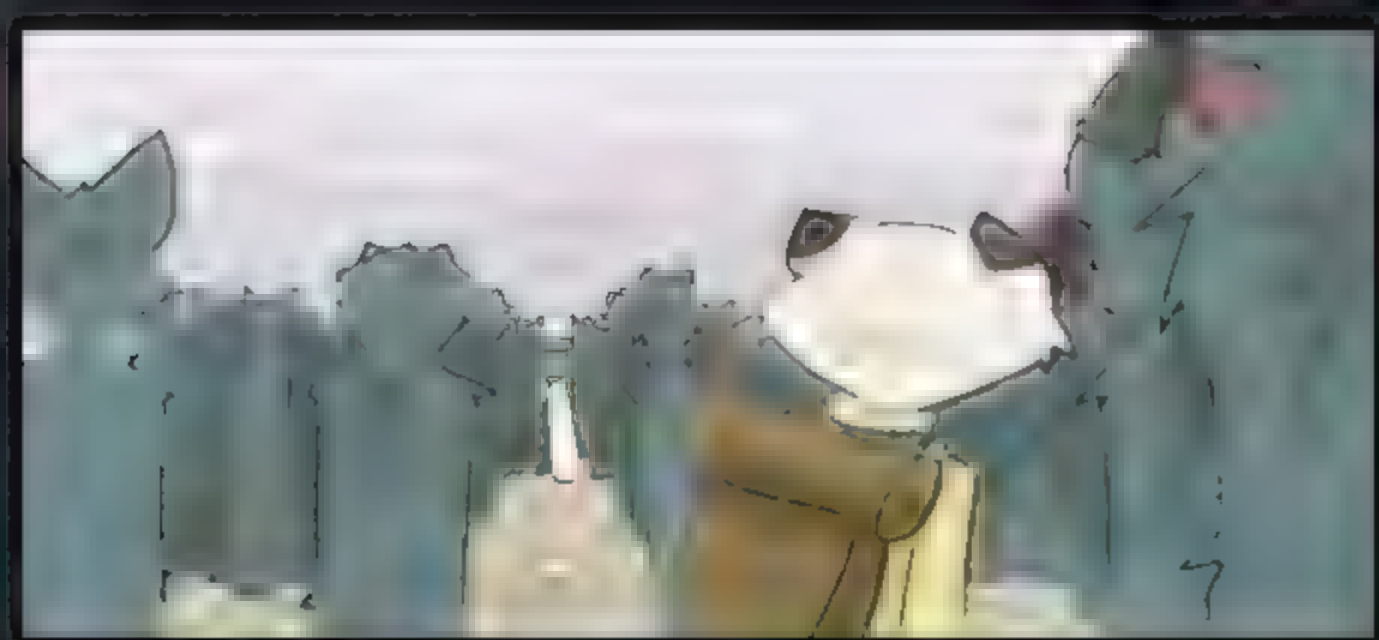
BE BACK HERE
IN TWO HOURS, AND STAY
OUT OF TROUBLE. KEEP THOSE
STICKY PAWS IN YOUR
POCKETS.

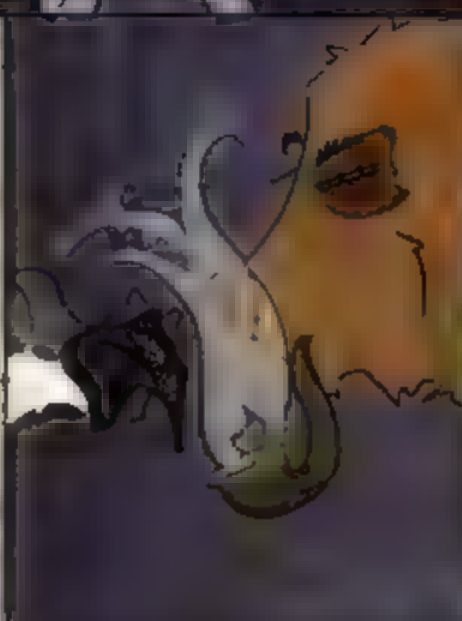
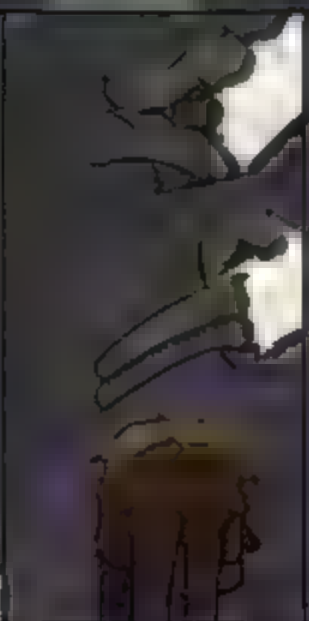
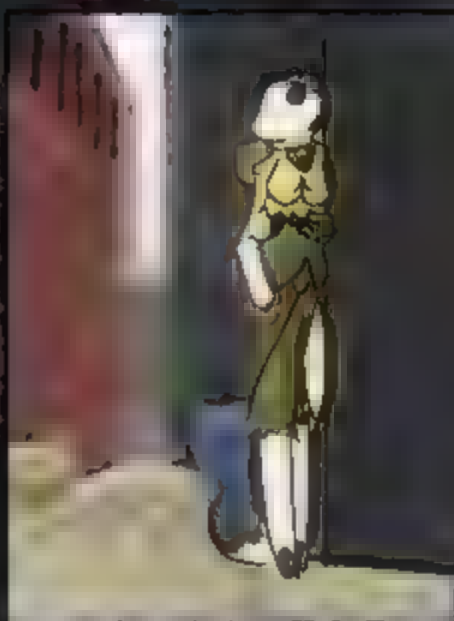
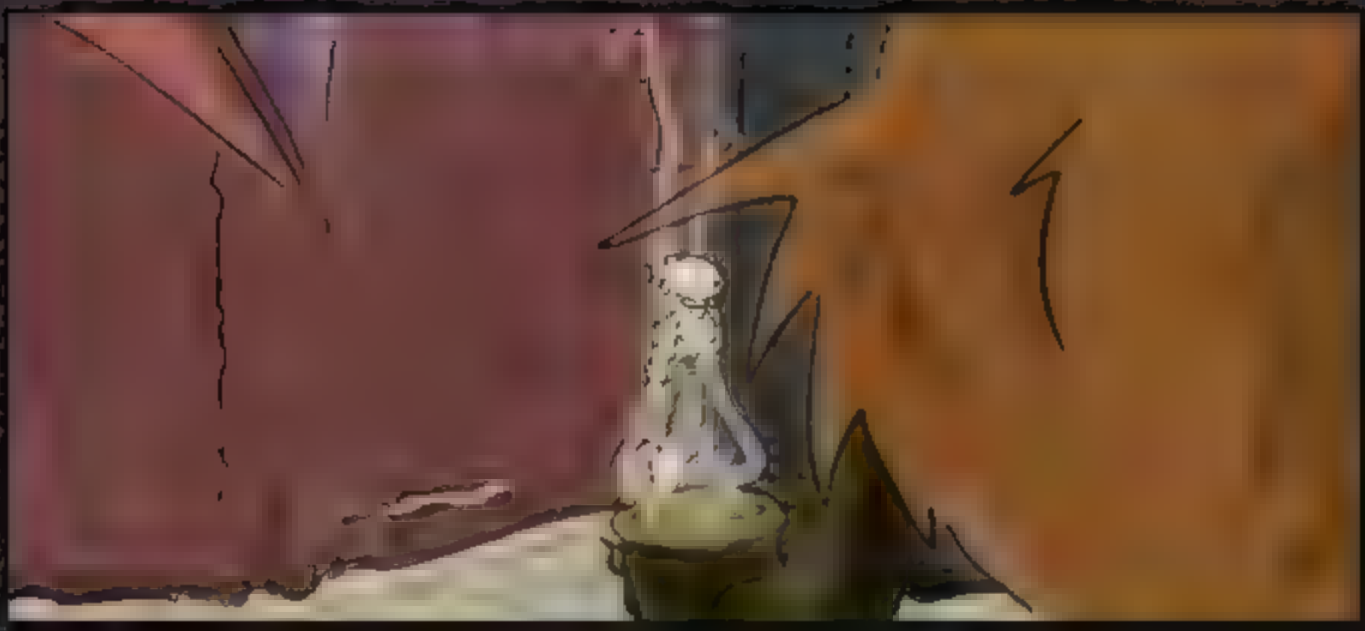
DO WEAR TWO BLANKETS
FOR THE PART TWO BUSINESS
OF SELLING THESE FISH
AND 11 5 2

THE BEST POTATOES!
CLEAN FROM TRUSTED COALITION
SOIL! CLEAN POTATOES!

KATT, YOU WORRY
TO MUCH. LETS SAY GOODBYE
TO THIS TOWN AND GO FIND
SOME ANSWERS.

BE CAREFUL.





VERY NICE PIECE
BUT I DO NOT DEAL IN FINERY
LIKE THIS. I WILL HAVE TO SEND
FOR AN EXPERT IN CHAINS.

TOBO SO GET
LIDELL, AND TELL HIM
I NEED HIS EXPERTISE IN
A PETITE WHITE
GOLD CHAIN.

NO YOU DON'T
HAVE TO-

IT'S OKAY
SWEETHEART, LIDELL
AIN'T NO LAWMAN.
HUR-HEH.

SIR I REALLY
MUST-

HOY MAN.
WHAT DO YOU
HAVE HERE?

HOY LIDELL.

PETITE PIECE
OF JEWELRY IN WHITE
GOLD IN NEED OF A NEW
CHAIN AND CLASP

PRETTY LITTLE
PIECE I'LL GIVE YOU
FOUR FOR HER.

PRETTY LITTLE
PIECE I'LL GIVE YOU
FOUR FOR HER.

SEEMS WELL
ENOUGH, DIRTY, BUT WHEN
ARE THEY NOT

DON'T BE INSULTING.
TEN ON COALITION CREDIT
AND NOTHING LESS. I COULD GET
FIVE MARKS JUST FOR THE
MEAT ON HER BONES.

EIGHT MARKS,
NO CREDIT,
FINAL OFFER.

DONE. I'M GONNA
TAKE HER IN THE BACK FOR
A QUICK GOODBYE

YOU SHOULD HAVE
TAKEN YOUR MONEYS WORTH
BEFORE SHE WAS MY PROPERTY
IT'S NOW FIVE A RIDE.

FUCK YOU LIDELL.
SLIMY OTTER.

WHAT NO,
I'M NOT YOURS.
HEL-HURF!

HELP
KATT

NO, BUT
YOU ARE GOING
TO BE VERY SORRY
WHEN SHE FINDS OUT
I'M MISSING. SHE
IS THE REAPER.

HAHAHA,
ENOUGH LIP, NO
MORE BACK TALK
OR I'LL GAS YOU.

CAT?
ANOTHER LITTLE
FRIEND OF YOURS.
SHE COMING BACK
SOON?

WHERE
ARE YOU TAKING
ME?

TO FILL
AN ORDER DOWN
SOUTH.

SHE IS OURS
BY THE AUTHORITY OF
THE COALITION FOR CRIMES
RENDERED UPON THEIR
TERRITORY.



HARRISVILLE IS NOT
UNDER COALITION AUTHORITY.
WE HAVE PRIOR BUSINESS.
SHE IS OURS.



BOYS, BOYS.
BOSWELL COULDN'T
WAIT A FEW MINUTES TO LOSE
TWO OF HIS THINGS?



ASSHOLES...

SNIFF

THAT LITTLE SHIT
BETTER NOT HAVE COME
DOWN HERE TO WATCH



SNIFFER

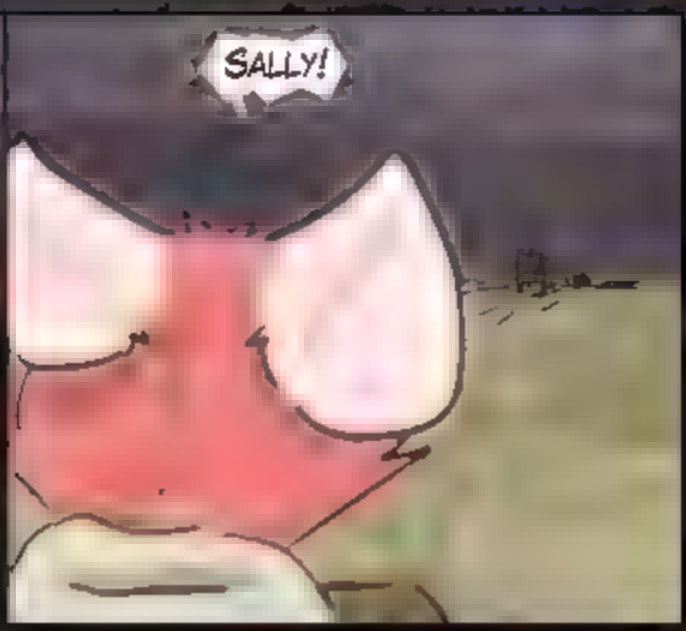
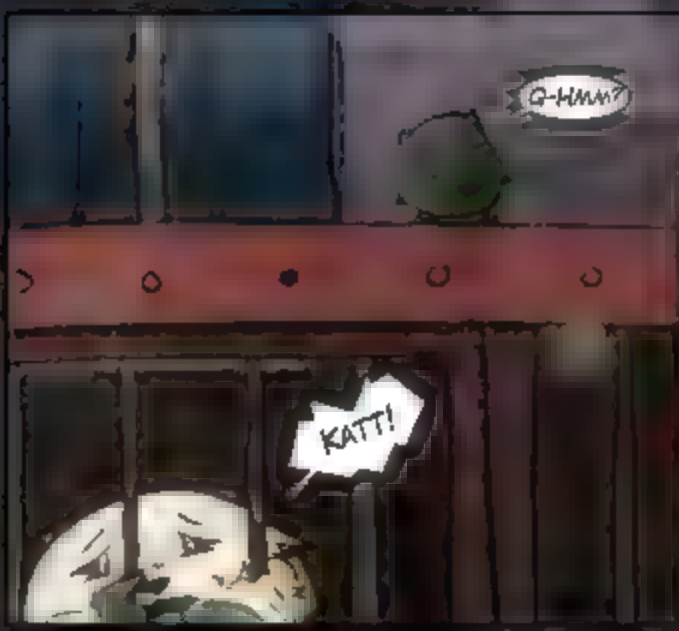
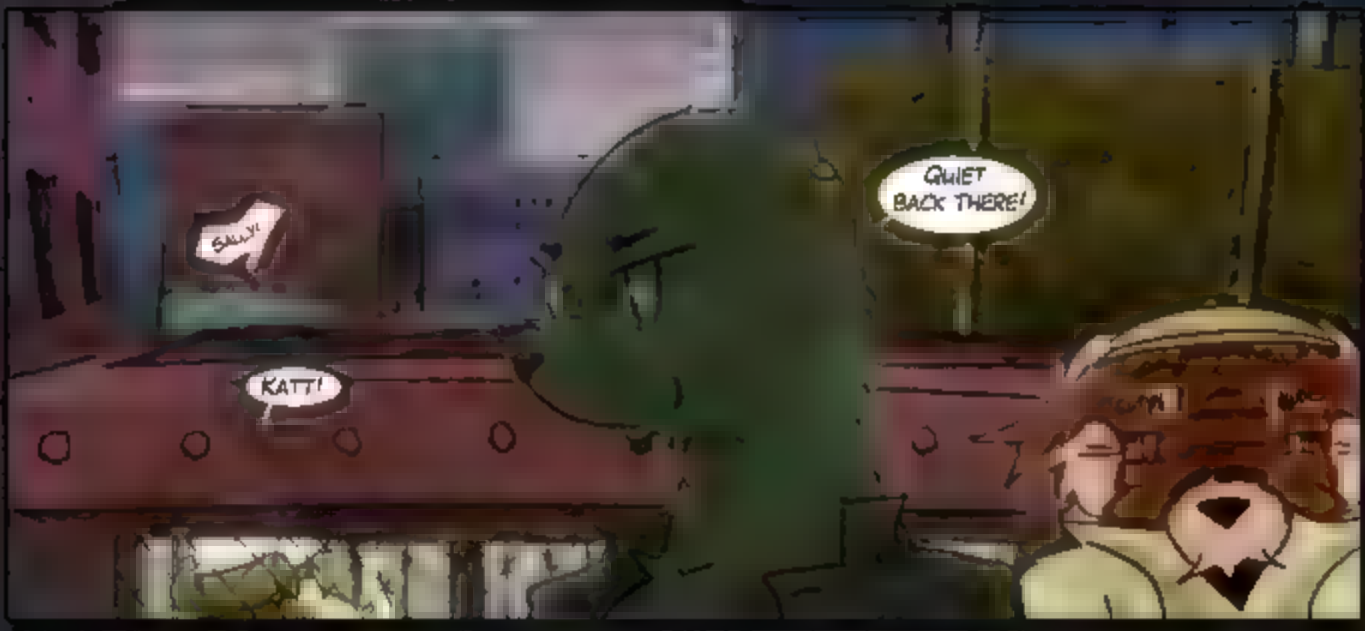
HAILED FRESH OUT
OF THE WASTE! BROKEN OF
SPIRIT BUT NOT BROKEN OF
BODY! OPENING BIDS!

THOSE SOULS DOWN
FRONT ARE THE LUCKY ONES FOLKS!
THEY GO TO COALITION FARMS WHERE
THEY WILL BE FED AND CLOTHED..

THEIR WILL DIED LONG
AGO, GIVE THEM A PURPOSE
TO LIVE FOR.

WOMAN AT THE
BACK SAYS TWO! WHO WILL
GIVE ME THREE? THREE IS A STEAL
FOLKS. LOOK AT THIS LOT!

GIVE UP ALL!
THE END HAS COME FOR US!
LOOK! LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE BECOME!
WE SHALL ALL PERISH BY OUR OWN HAND
LEAST THE GRACE OF GOD!







WHAT WOULD KATT
DO? SHE'D KILL EVERYONE
AND THEN YELL AT ME FOR BEING
USELESS. THAT WON'T HELP. OOOOR
SHE WOULD THINK UP A CLEVER
WAY TO ESCAPE USING A
DISTRACTION.



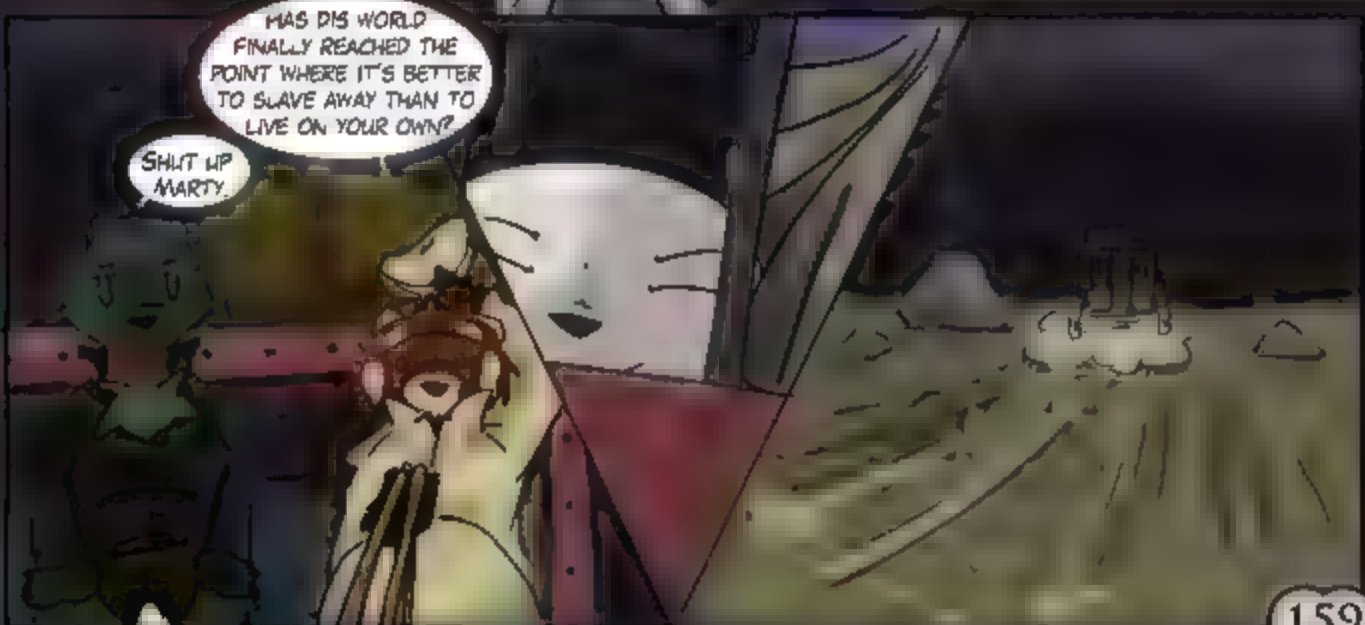
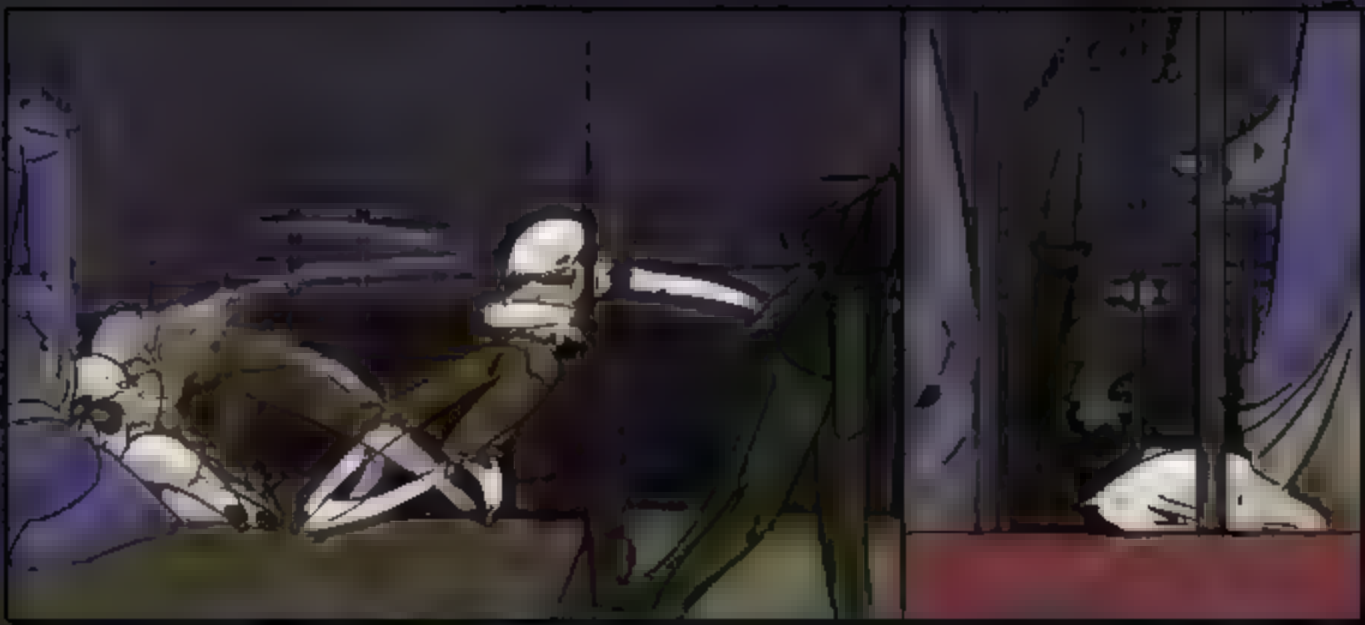
DAMN STOP AND A
TEMPERATURE DROP SNOWS
A COMING LIDELL

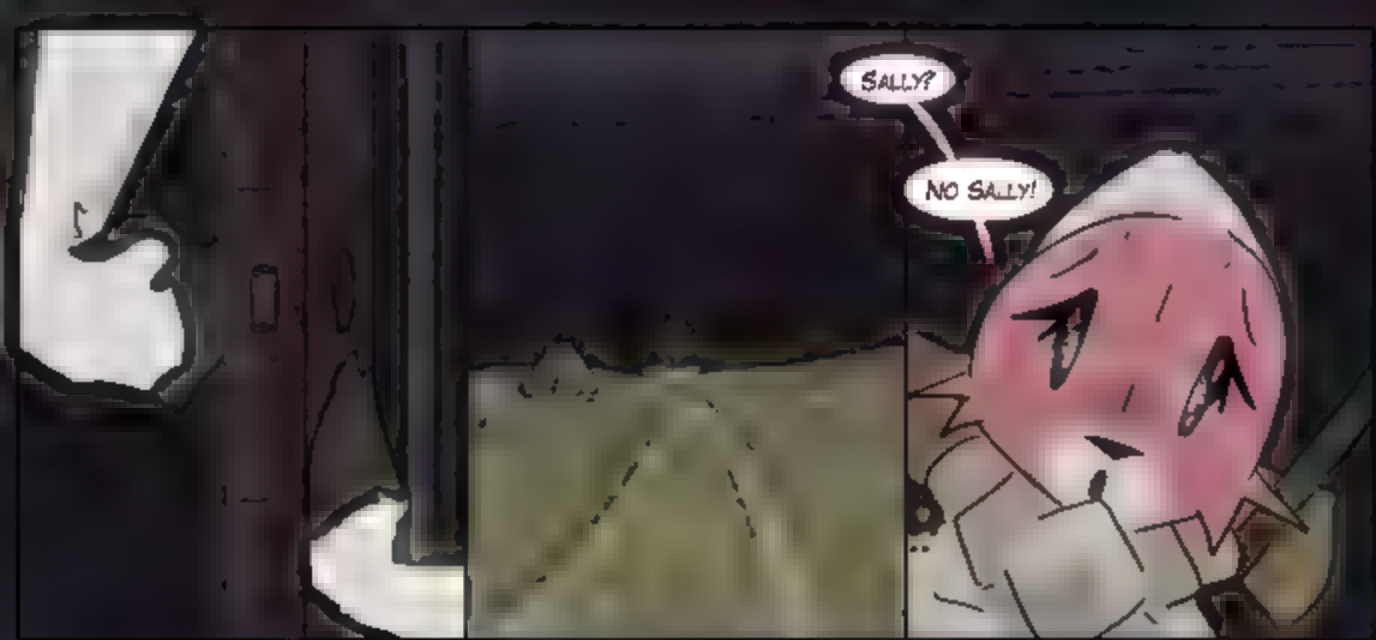
ONE OF THE
GANG LINES FELL OUT
AND WRAPPED ITSELF
AROUND THE AXEL.

BACK IT UP MARTY,
TAKE THE TENSION OFF
THAT CHAIN.

THAT'S
GOOD MARTY

TOSS









OH SALLY,
I AM SO SORRY

OH SALLY BABY, I

COUGH

COUGH
I'M SORRY KATT

COUGH
I LIED TO YOU.
I KEPT AND

COUGH
KEPT A PIECE
OF JEWELRY

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH

SALLY! SALLY!!
IT WAS NOT YOUR
FAULT

IT IS MY FAULT,
THIS IS WHAT ALWAYS
HAPPENS. SOMEONE FOLLOWS
ME, I HELP THEM ALONG,
AND THEY DIE BECAUSE
OF ME

BUT NOW.

YOU'RE JUST
A CHILD

NO, KATT.
MY FAULT.

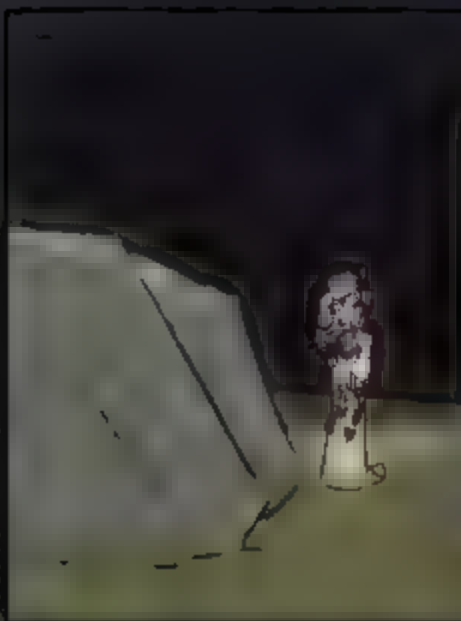
COUGH
STUPID
COUGH

THANK YOU
FOR LETTING ME F-FOLLOW
YOU. I JUST WANTED TO BE
FRIENDS. I'VE NEVER HAD A
FRIEND BEFORE

OH SALLY, I'M
YOUR FRIEND. I'M YOUR
FRIEND. I'M YOUR FRIEND! I'M SORRY
FOR PUSHING YOU AWAY WHEN I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN EMBRACING YOU.
SALLY I AM SORRY

I WISH...
I WISH I COULD
HAVE SEEN THE STARS
FOR REAL.





MIKE LIES SALLY
BORN A DAUGHTER
LIVED FREE
DIED A FRIEND
RETURNED TO THE STARS
- K





YOU'RE LATE
LIDELL, THE OTHERS
ARRIVED HOURS AGO.

SHUT YOUR FLAPPING
GLIMS AND LET ME IN BEFORE
I RUN A SECOND PERSON
DOWN TONIGHT

THOCK!
THOCK!

BOSS WANTS TO
SEE YOU LIDELL, SOMETHING
ABOUT SLAVES GONE
MISSING.

HEHEHE

AIN'T TOO HAPPY

OPEN UP! IT'S
THE MOULDY OTTER!

OI, LOOKS
LIKE YOU KITTENS
FORGOT ONE.

HEH, SHE'LL BE
ALONG SHORTLY. DETAIN HER,
I'LL BE BACK TO COLLECT HER WHEN
I'M THROUGH WITH MORE
IMPORTANT MATTERS.

LIKE HELL YOU WILL.
YOU LEAVE AND I'M CLAIMING
HER FAIR GAME. SHE MIGHT BE WARMING
MY SHEETS TONIGHT OR IN AS ANTE
FOR THE ROH GAME TONIGHT

I'VE GOT
BUSINESS, IF YOU
CAN CATCH HER
SHE'S YOURS

PROBABLY BEEN
A DECADE SINCE YOUR GASH
KNEW ANYTHING BUT YOUR
OWN CALLOUSED PAW

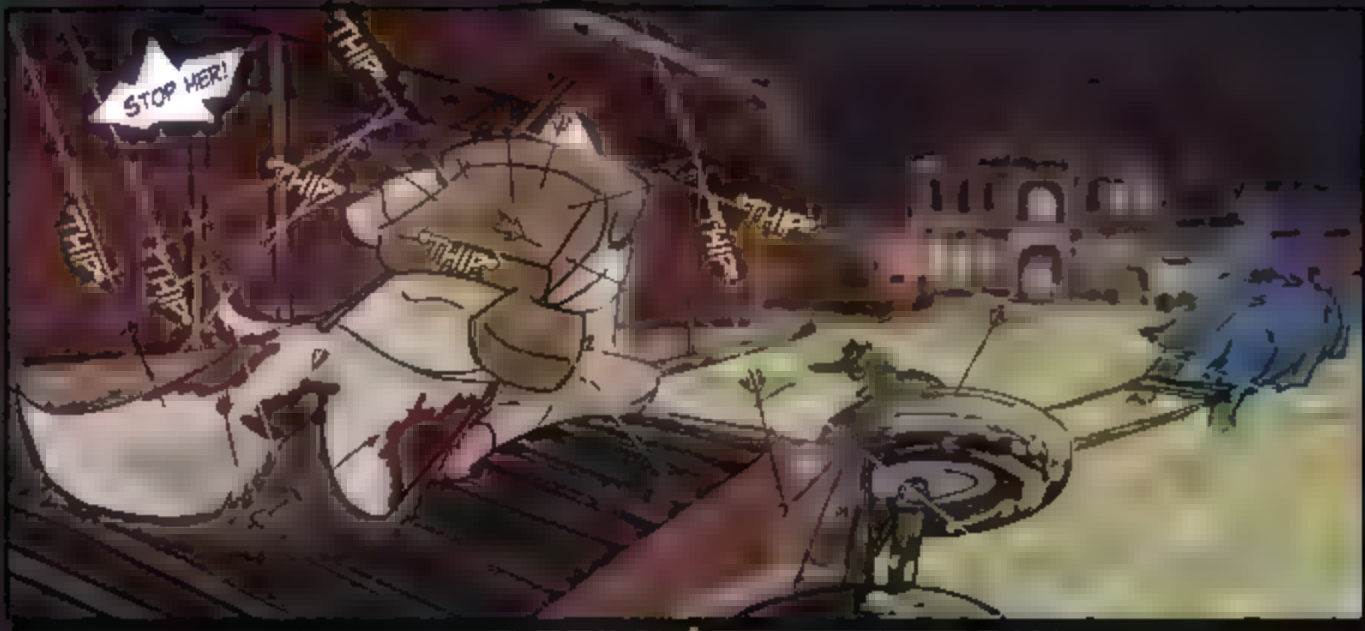
THAT'S FAR
ENOUGH SWEETHE-

EEEP!

AHH!

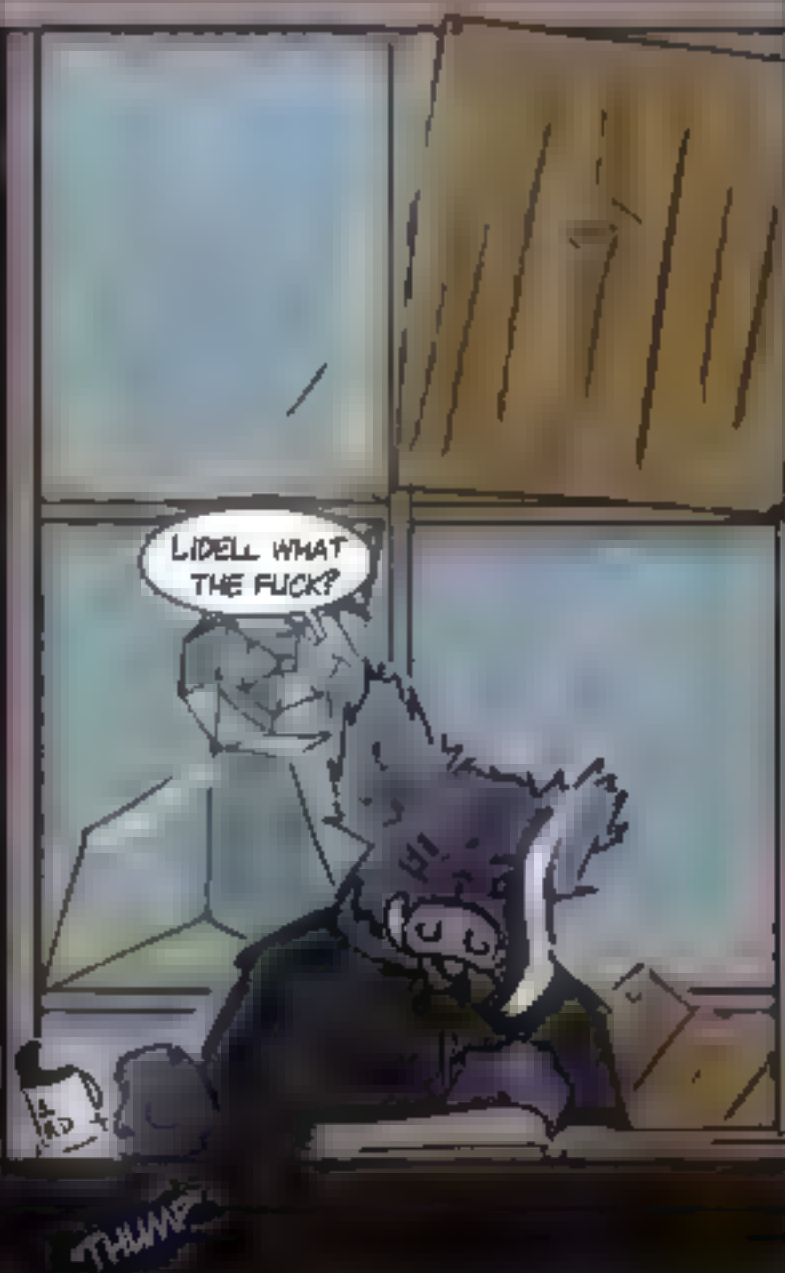
WHA!

THE F-HUFF!





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LIDELL WHAT THE FUCK?



DIE-HURK!

THUMP!

HELP!

ARE!

MADO THE-

CLASH

GET AROUND HER!

MOVE! THERE!

duh!



SHLICK!

GET HER! NO GO-TH

AAAAH!

WURK!

FIRE! FIRE!

MADDY THE

A WOMAN

LIDELL WHAT
THE HELL IS GOING
ON OUT THERE!

A WOMAN? LIDELL!

IT'S STOPPED...

AAAAHHHHRRGL!!!

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT SHE IS
THE-

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK

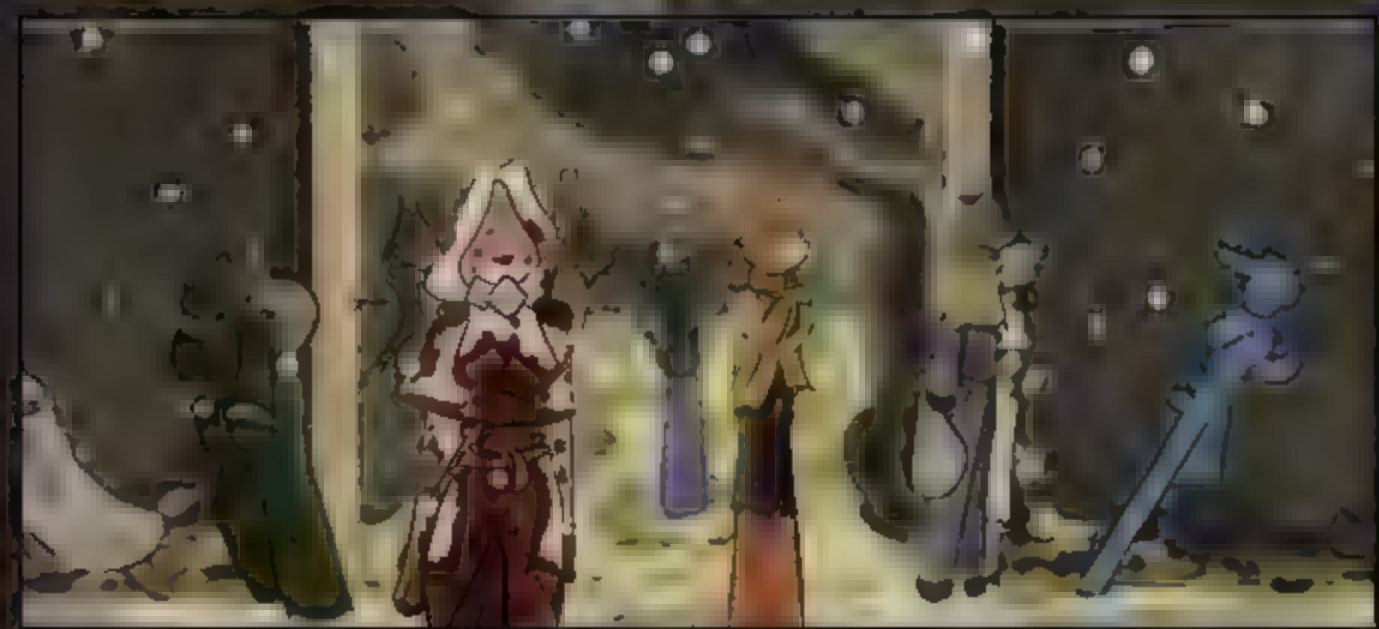
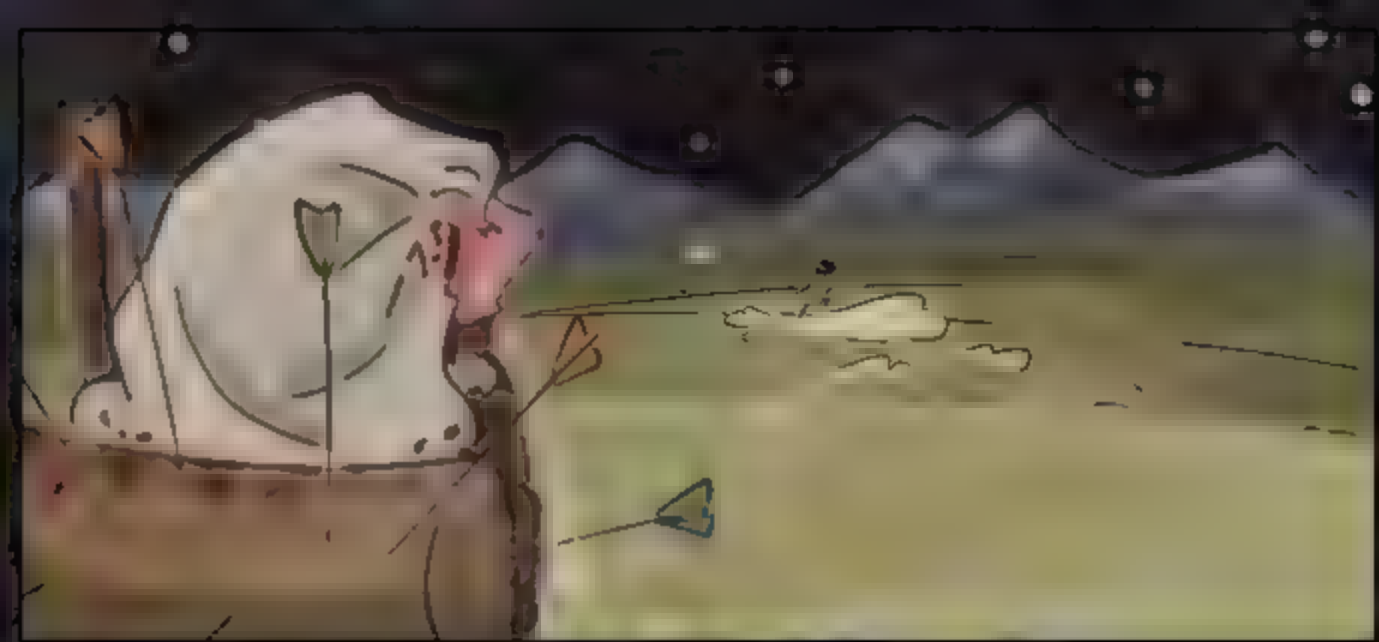
SHUT UP
LIDELL YOU MOULDY
SHIT

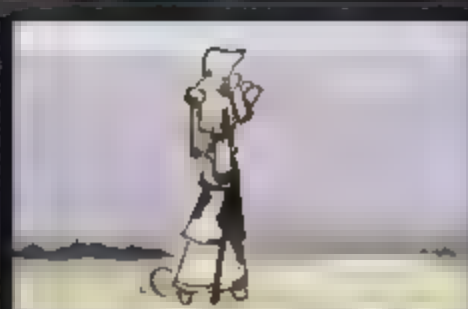
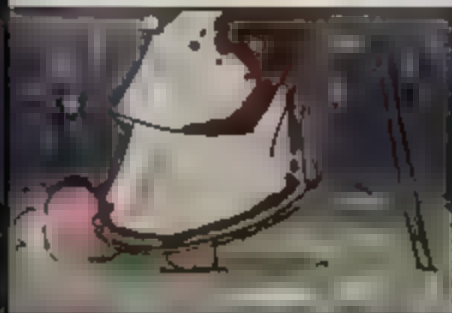
CREAK
CREAK

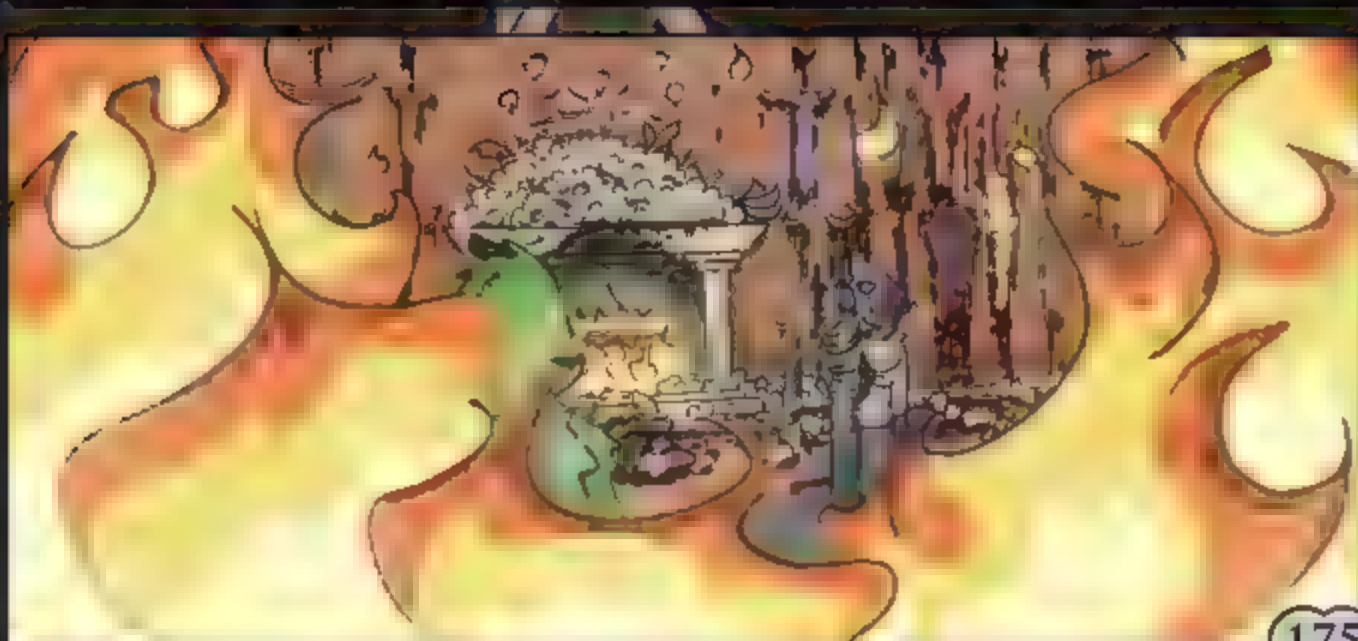
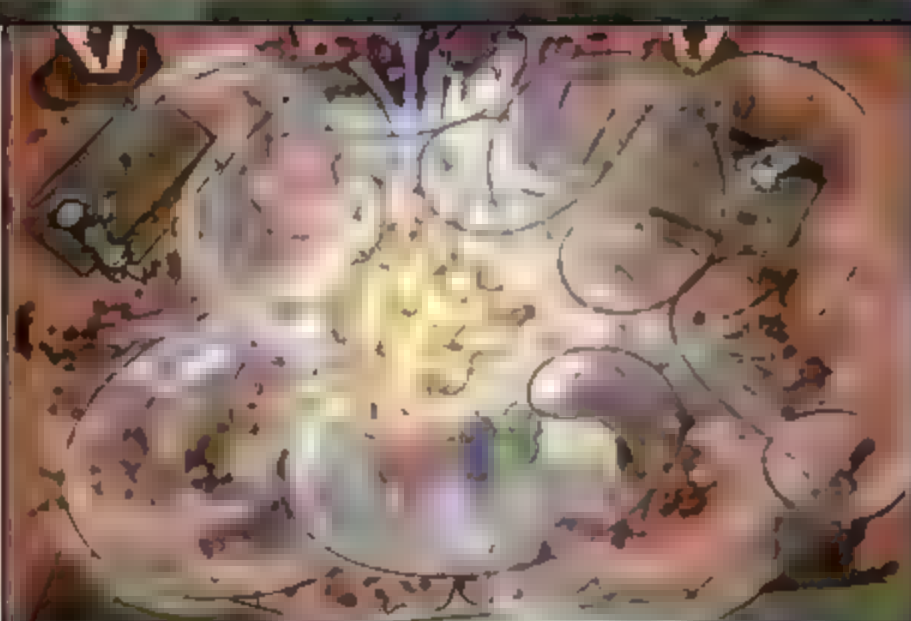
BLAMM!*

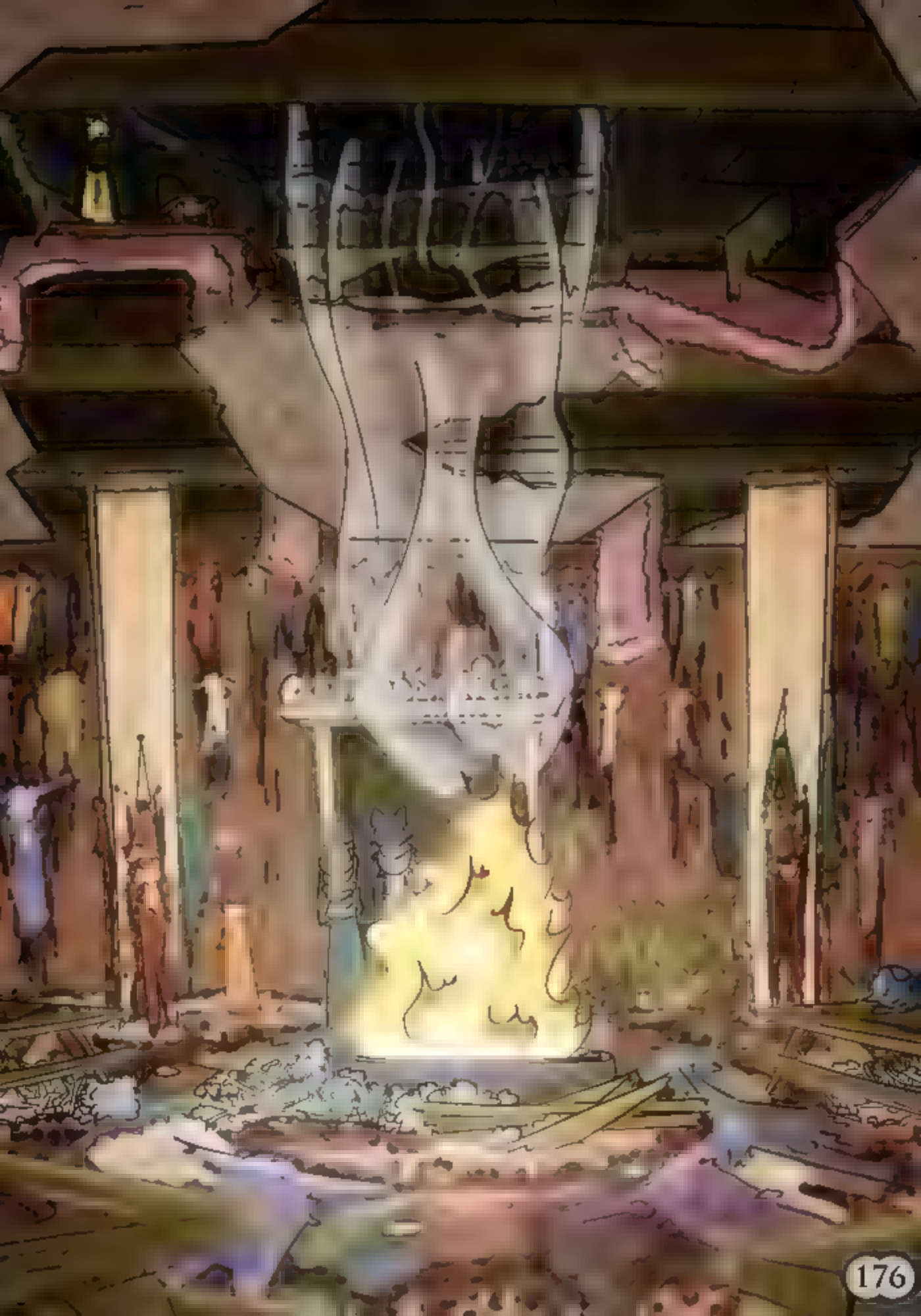


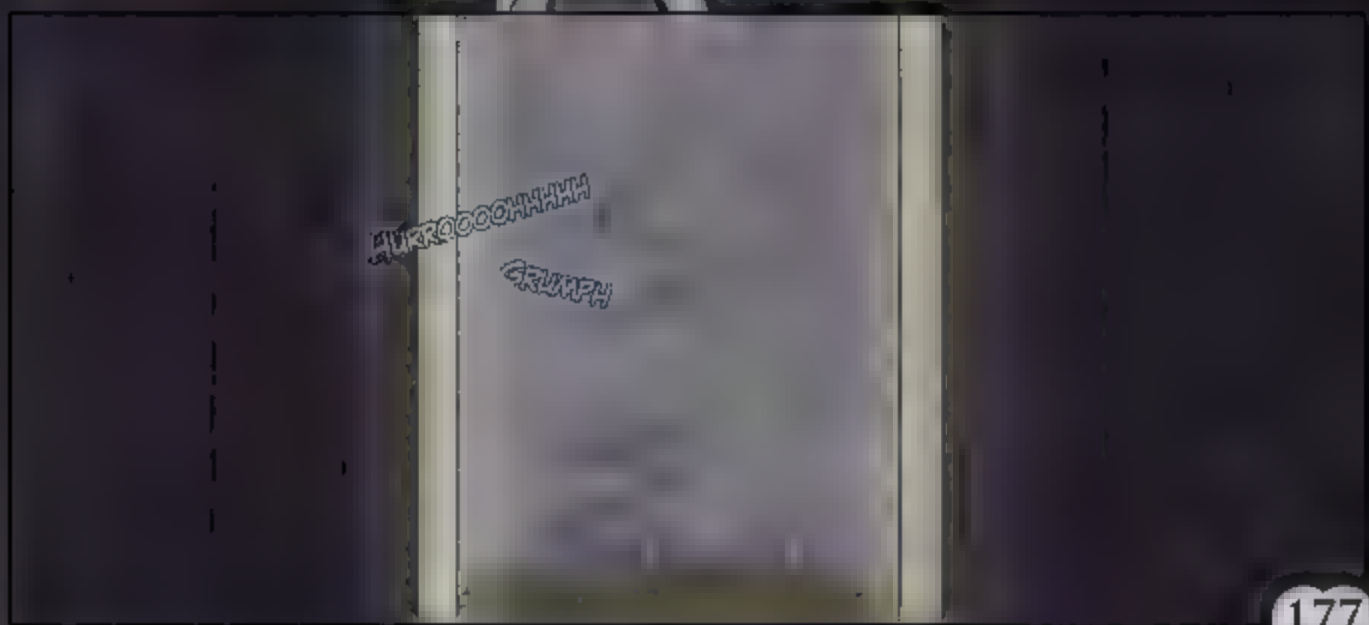
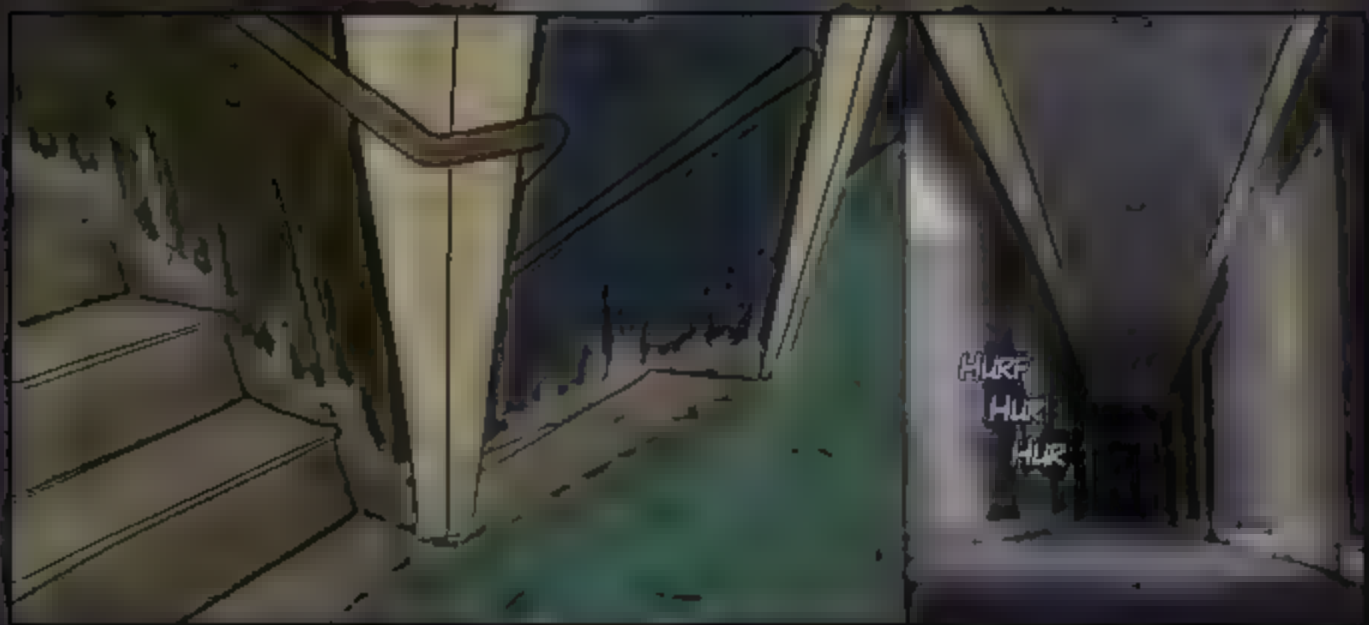
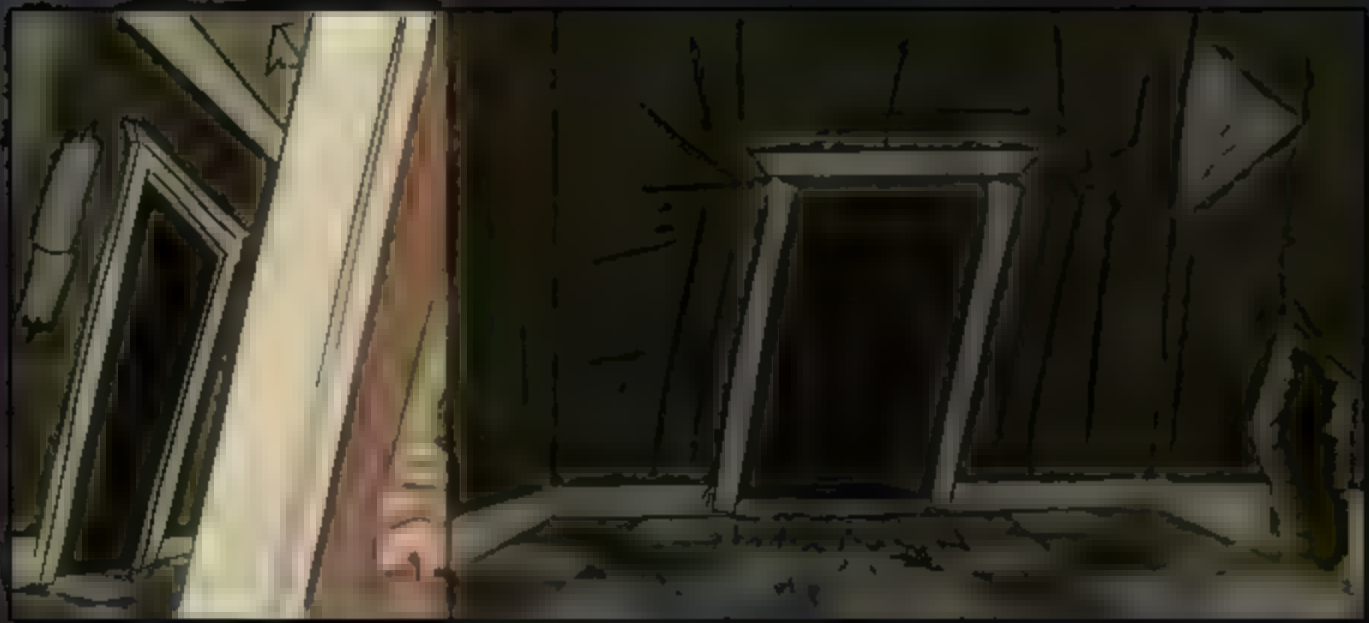










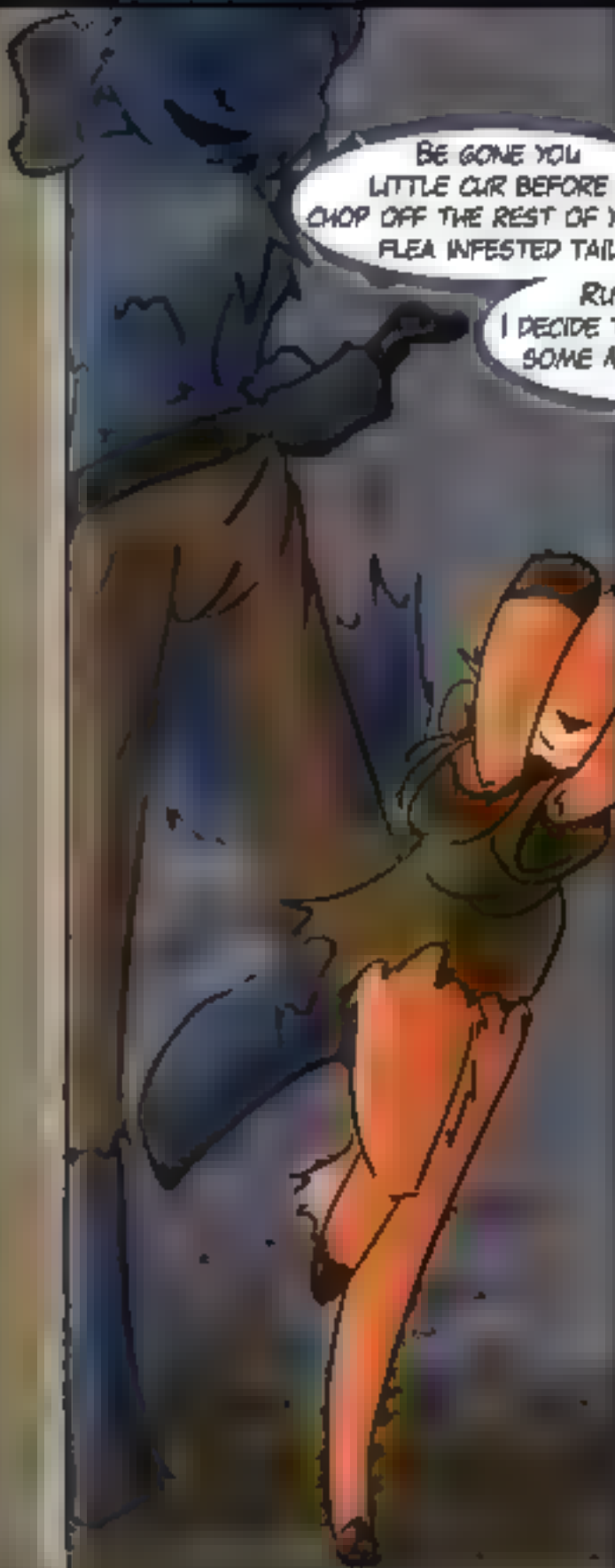


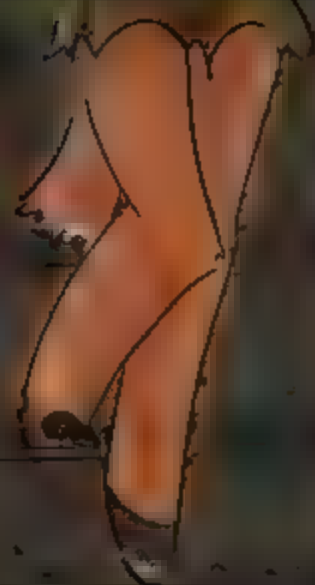
MAY I HAVE
THE BREAD NOW?



BE GONE YOU
LITTLE CUR BEFORE I
CHOP OFF THE REST OF YOUR
FLEA INFESTED TAIL.

RUN BEFORE
I DECIDE TO HAVE MYSELF
SOME MONGREL STEW.



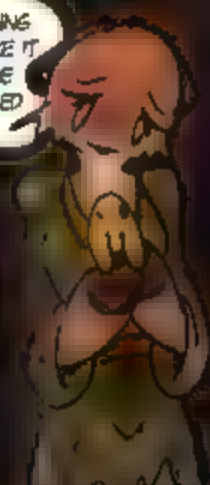


SNIFLE
SNIFLE



STOP YOUR SNIFFLING
CHILD, IT IS NOT LIKE IT
IS THE FIRST TIME
YOU'VE BEEN SOILED

MR. FLUFFY
PANTS I KNOW



THEN WHY THE
SOB FEST. WE CAN'T GO
AROUND CRYING AND LETTING
THEM SEE YOUR MISERY
BOTTLE IT UP, BURY
IT DEEP DOWN.



IT'S NOT THAT
EITHER MR. FLUFFY PANTS.
I AM SOOOO HUNGRY
IT HURTS.



THERE'S PLENTY OF
FOOD UPSTAIRS.



NO MR. FLUFFY
PANTS THEY ARE ALL UP
THERE HAVING A PARTY BECAUSE
OF THE VISITORS.

YOU COULD SNEAK UP,
YOU KNOW THIS PLACE
BETTER THEN ANY OF
THOSE SAVAGES.



AND IF THEY CATCH
ME THEY'LL BEAT ME AND
MAKE ME CLEAN THE FLOOR
WITH MY TAIL AGAIN.

THEY WON'T HAVE...
NORMAL FOOD... JUST...



FINE STARVE
AND LEAVE ME ALL
ALONE AT THEIR
MERCY.

NO MR. FLUFFY PANTS,
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT
PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT.

WELL AT LEAST
CATCH A WALL CRAWLER
OR SOMETHING
YOU NITWIT.

THERE ARE
NOT MANY LEFT ON
THIS FLOOR. I HAVE TO
GO UP ONE.

WELL... WHAT
ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
ONE TO JUST WANDER DOWN
HERE AND SIT IN
YOUR LAPP?

NOT YET,
NOT TILL THEY
FALL ASLEEP

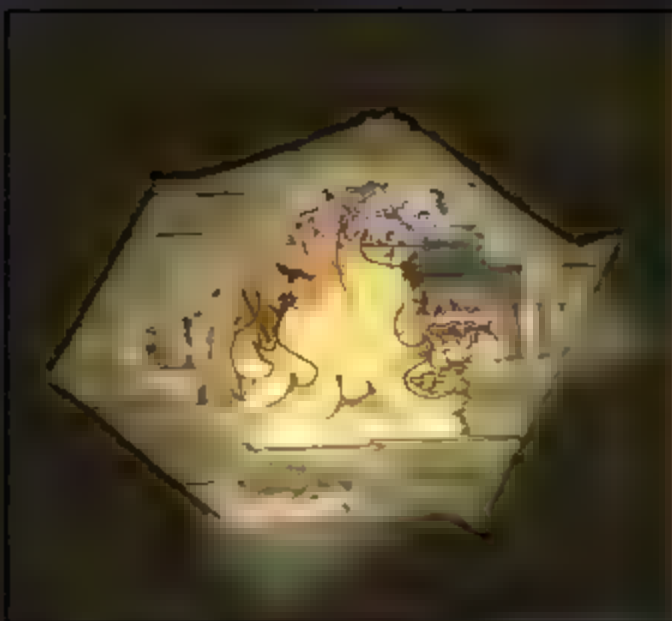
CHILD YOU WILL
PERISH FROM YOUR
OWN STUPIDITY

IT HURTS.

THEN GO!

YOU CAN DO
IT, BE A WALL CRAWLER.
SKITTER YOUR WAY UP, YOU
HAVE BEEN HERE FOREVER. THEY
HAVE ONLY BEEN HERE
A FEW YEARS.

THEY DO NOT
KNOW THIS PLACE LIKE
YOU, YOU HAVE SHOWN THEM
WHY THIS IS YOUR KINGDOM
ON MORE THEN ONE
OCCASION.





Aye, no one
can catch her down
there, maybe she's come
up to share.

HEY MONGREL.
UP FROM YOUR PIT?



YOU WANT SOMETHING
TO EAT MONGREL, THERE'S A
BURRING BETWEEN MY TOES THAT
NEEDS TO BE BITTEN OUT.
COME HELP DADDY.

DON'T LOOK AT
THE FIRE, EYES ON THE
BREAD, DON'T LOOK
AT THE FIRE.



WELL, WHAT
DO WE HAVE HERE?

NO. HE...
IT'S MY DOLLY,
PLEASE. I...



HELLO MR. DOLLY.

WELL NOW
IT SEEMS I'VE FOUND
MYSELF A NEW
BUDDY.



THAT IS UNLESS
YOU HAVE SOMETHING
TO TRADE FOR HIM...



IS THAT THE
PRICE YOU ARE WILLING
TO PAY FOR BREAD?

MR. FLUFFY
PANTS SHHH!



I WAS FLATTERED,
BREAD MAY NOT BE
WORTH A TAIL RUBBED
RAW, BUT I AM

YES, NOW PLEASE,
BE QUIET I JUST WANT
TO WAIT TILL THEY ARE
ALL GONE.

YOU DID WELL.

THIS HIDING PLACE LEAVES
SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED
THE DECOR IS ACCEPTABLE BUT
WE'RE PRACTICALLY IN PLAIN SIGHT

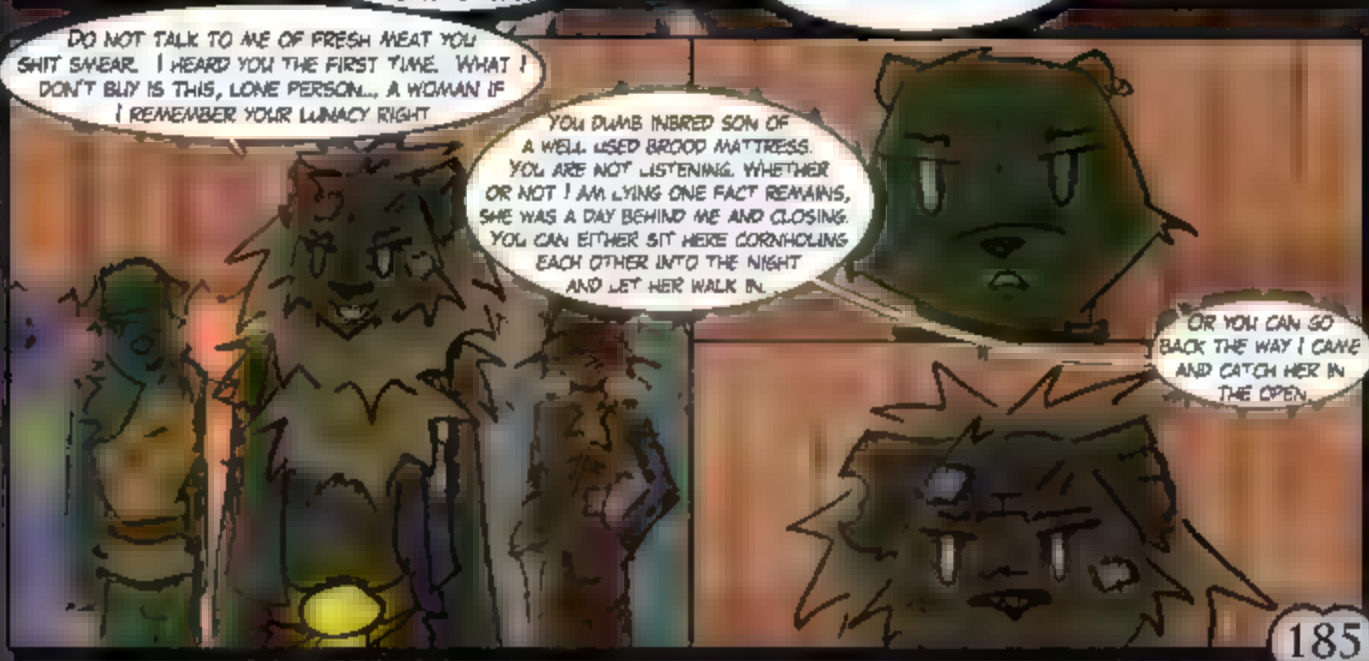
SHHH!!



DEAR CHILD YOU ARE NOT
THE SWEETEST SMELLING ROSE TO
BEGIN WITH. THAT IS GOING TO MAKE
YOU SMELL LIKE A CORPSE.

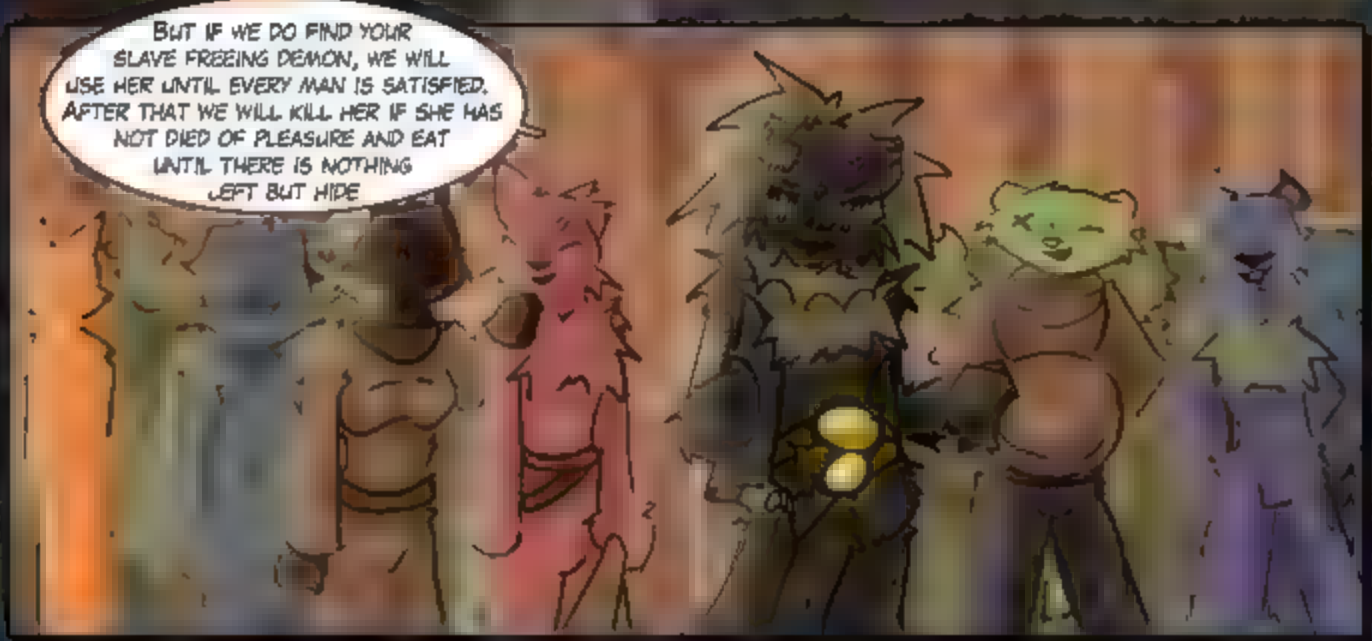
THEY'RE BACK

WELL NOW
WE ARE FUCKED.





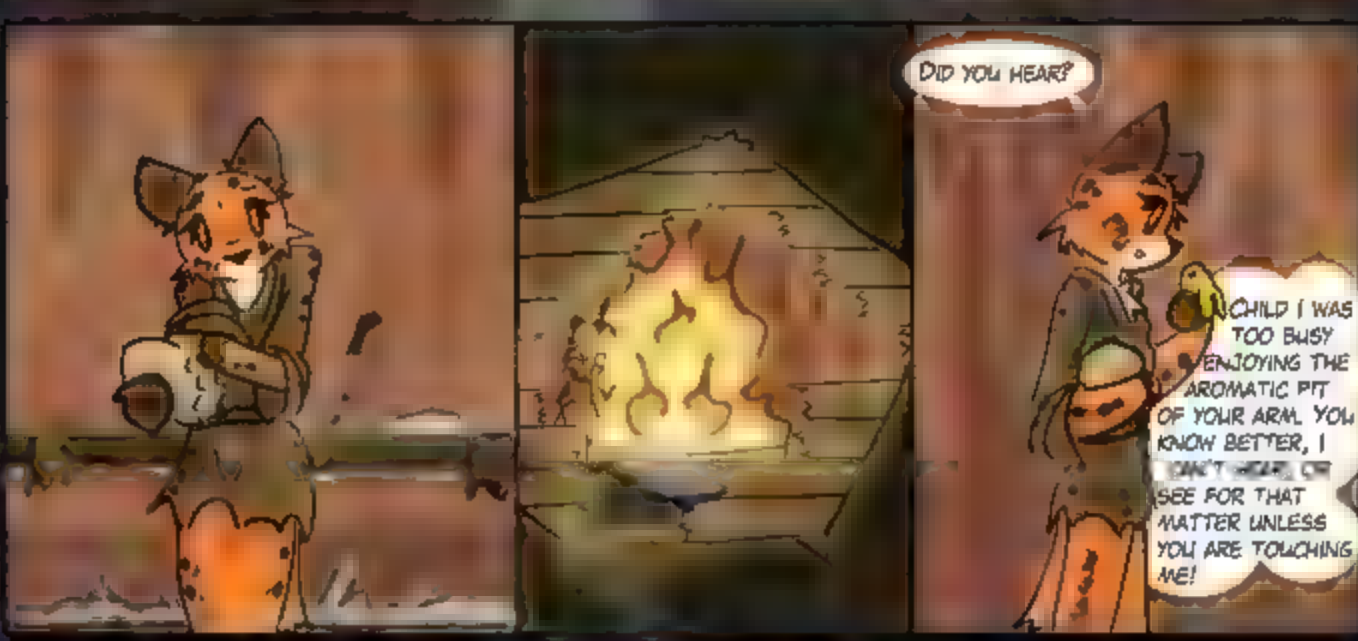
IF WE DO NOT FIND
HER YOU PUSS FILLED BOIL.
I WILL PERSONALLY RIP YOUR
BALLS OFF AND FEED THEM TO
YOU WHILE THE BOYS TAKE
TURNS WITH YOUR TAIL.



BUT IF WE DO FIND YOUR
SLAVE FREEING DEMON, WE WILL
USE HER UNTIL EVERY MAN IS SATISFIED.
AFTER THAT WE WILL KILL HER IF SHE HAS
NOT DIED OF PLEASURE AND EAT
UNTIL THERE IS NOTHING
LEFT BUT HIDE



EVERY MAN TO
THE SURFACE! WE HAVE A
LUPJAK TO FIND. FIRST MAN TO
SPOT HER GETS THE
FIRST RIDE!



DID YOU HEAR?

CHILD I WAS TOO BUSY ENJOYING THE AROMATIC PIT OF YOUR ARM. YOU KNOW BETTER, I CAN'T HEAR OR SEE FOR THAT MATTER UNLESS YOU ARE TOUCHING ME!



SOMEONE FREED ALL THE SLAVE MANS SLAVES AND BURNT HIS HOUSE DOWN!

HOG WASH CHILD, SOMEONE? IT WOULD TAKE A WELL ORGANIZED RAIDING PARTY TO PULL THAT OFF. I DOUBT EVEN THESE GRETINS COULD MANAGE IT

IT'S TRUE! HE SAID SHE WAS COMING HERE!

SHE? LAUGHABLE. A SINGLE WOMAN DOING ALL THAT, YOU MUST HAVE MISHEARD.

YOU SOUND LIKE
THE MEN, THEY DIDN'T
BELIEVE EITHER.

WELL FOR ONCE THEY
SHOW A LITTLE
SENSE.

WHAT IF SHE COMES
HERE? DO YOU THINK SHE
WILL BE NICE? MAYBE
SHE WILL LIKE ME...

CHILD! STOP YOUR
DAY DREAMING, SHE
ISN'T REAL.

MAYBE... MAYBE
IF I'M REALLY NICE TO
HER. REALLY, REALLY NICE,
AND DO WHAT SHE SAYS...
MAYBE SHE WILL TAKE
ME AWAY...

YOU FORGET YOURSELF CHILD. YOU LIVE
WITH MURDERERS, THIEVES, RAPISTS, AND
CANNIBALS. YOU HAVE BEEN SOILED ENOUGH
TIMES TO MAKE ANY WORKINGWOMAN LOOK
LIKE A SAINT. YOU SMELL AS IF YOU WERE
PASSED THROUGH THE BOWELS OF A BLOATED
CORPSE. WHO WOULD WANT YOU? IF SHE WERE
REAL SHE WOULD PROBABLY USE YOU LIKE THE OTHERS
AND LEAVE YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS LIKE OUT
THERE. CHILDREN ARE A BURDEN. I HAVE BEEN
WITH YOU SINCE THE BEGINNING. EVERYDAY
WATCHING OUT FOR YOU AND TRYING TO COMFORT
YOU. AND NOW YOU WANT TO ABANDON ME FOR
SOMEONE THAT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT EXIST. YOU HURT ME

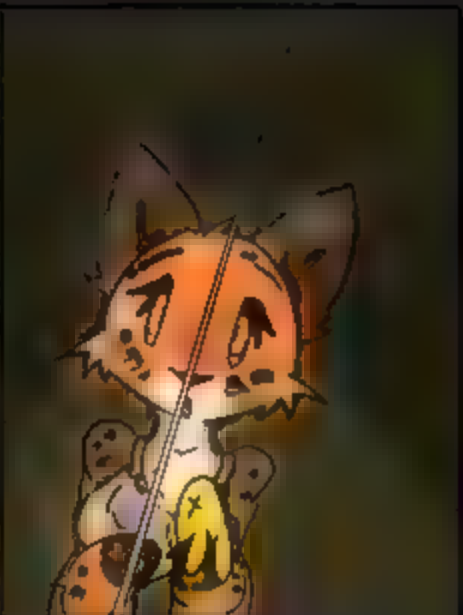
CRASH!

I KNOW. I AM
SORRY MR. FLUFFY PANTS,
I WON'T LEAVE YOU. I WAS
JUST HOPING-

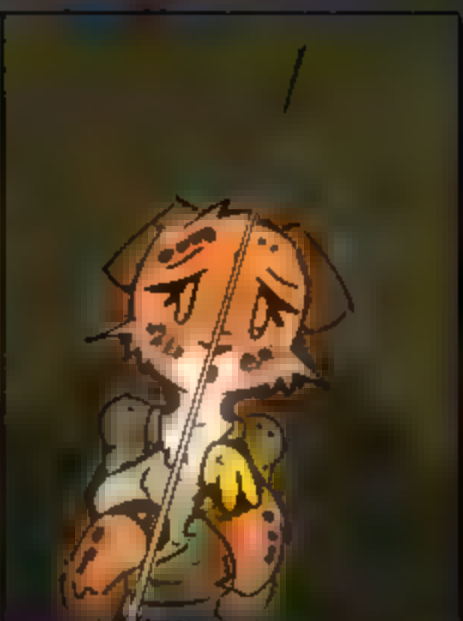




S-SALLY?



F-FOX?



CHILD WHAT ARE YOU DOING STANDING IN THE HALL, THERE IS NOTHING HERE.



WAIT!



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

WHY ARE
WE RUNNING?



THERE WAS
NOTHING THERE!

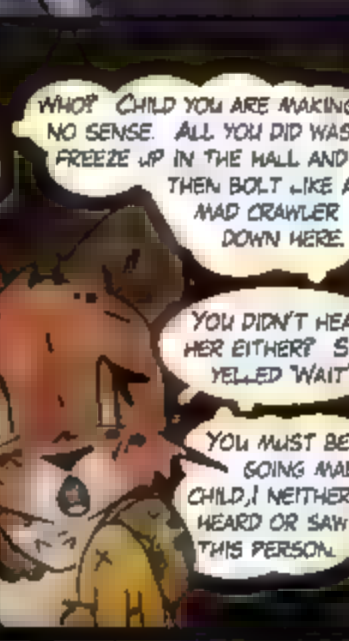


CHILD CALM YOURSELF,
YOU'RE HEART IS ABOUT TO
EXPLODE. WHY WERE
YOU RUNNING?



WH- WH- WHA
DO YOU MEAN?

YOU... YOU
DIDN'T SEE HER?

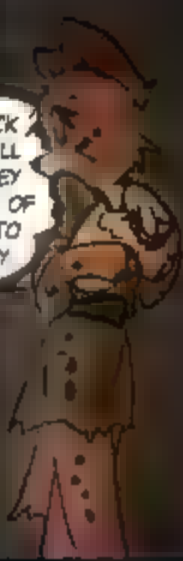


WHO? CHILD YOU ARE MAKING
NO SENSE. ALL YOU DID WAS
FREEZE UP IN THE HALL AND
THEN BOLT LIKE A
MAD CRAWLER
DOWN HERE.



YOU DIDN'T HEAR
HER EITHER? SHE
YELLED 'WAIT'

YOU MUST BE
GOING MAD
CHILD, I NEITHER
HEARD OR SAW
THIS PERSON.



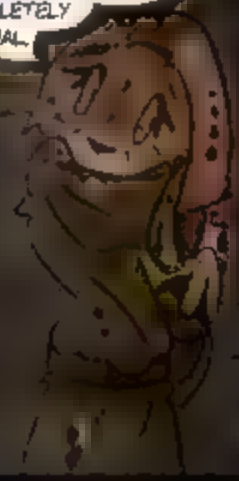
MAYBE I
WASN'T HOLDING
YOU TIGHT...

NO I SAW YOU STOCK
STILL IN AN EMPTY HALL
AND YOUR MAD JOURNEY
THROUGH THE GUTS OF
THIS PLACE ALL TOO
CLEARLY



BUT SHE...
MAYBE...
MAYBE I...

IMAGINED
IT ALL



SEE WHAT HOPE DOES
TO THE WEAK MIND. EAT
SOMETHING BEFORE YOU
GO COMPLETELY
DELUSIONAL.



IT'S OK CHILD, I AM
STILL HERE WITH YOU.
I AM NOT AN ILLUSION,
OR A HOPEFULL
HALLUCINATION. I-

CHECK THE THIRD
AND FORTH LEVELS. IF
YOU'RE NOT BACK IN TWENTY
MINUTES WE WILL ASSUME
YOU FOUND THE BITCH.



I AM NOT GOING
DOWN THERE ALONE
YOU SAW WHAT SHE DID.
MY FUR IS STILL DAMP
FROM MY OWN PISS.

YOU'LL DO IT OR YOU
WON'T HAVE A PRICK TO
PISS YOURSELF WITH

FUCK YOU

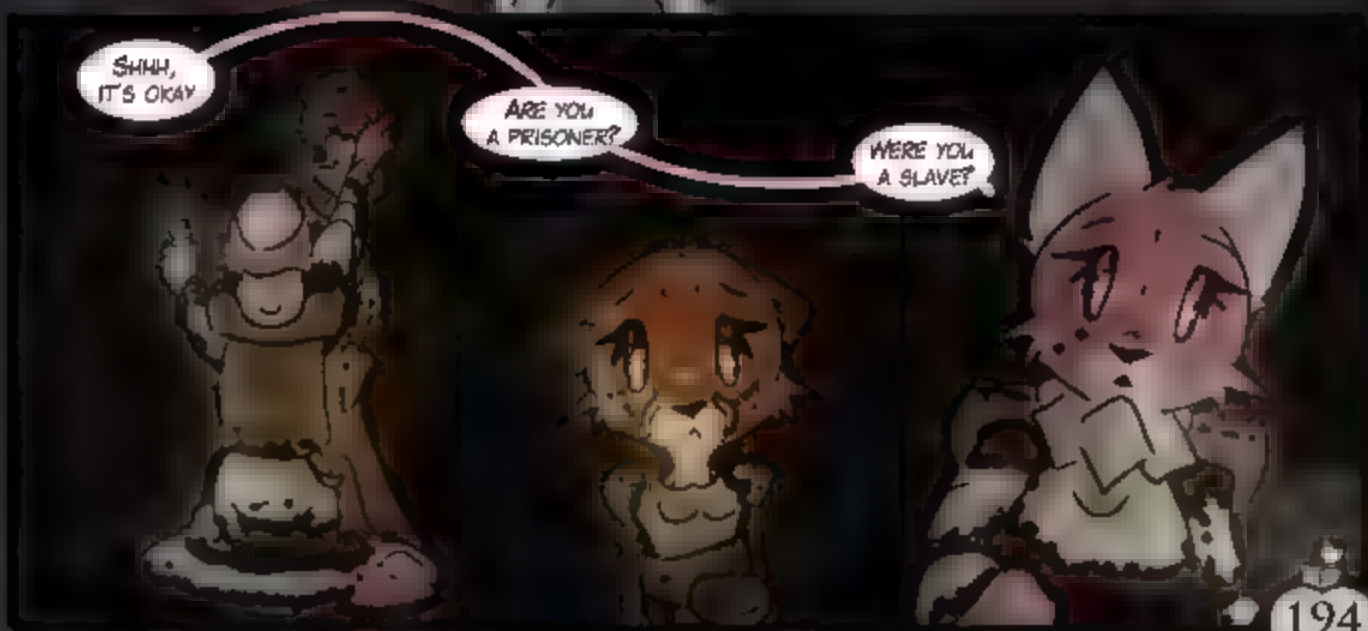
KILL ANYTHING
THAT MOVES, IT'S DARK
AND YOU WILL NOT GET
A SECOND CHANCE

SHHH T S CK

THAMPER

TRICKLE







ALICE.



IS THAT YOUR NAME, ALICE?



HELLO ALICE, I AM KATT, K-A-T-T



HELLO... KATT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALICE MONEY?

I LIVE HERE



WITH THEM?



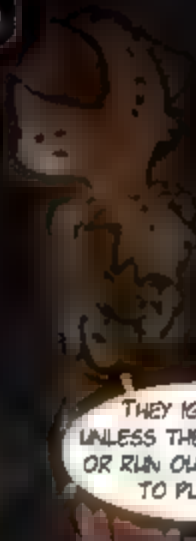
NO. THEY JUST CAME ONE DAY, I'VE LIVED HERE FOREVER

DO THEY KNOW YOU ARE HERE?

THEY ALL CALL ME MONGREL, THEY DON'T KNOW MY NAME.



MONGREL?



THEY IGNORE ME UNLESS THEY ARE DRUNK OR RUN OUT OF SLAVES TO PLAY WITH.



PLEASE
DON'T BE MAD

MAD ABOUT WHAT
ALICE HONEY?

L.. I WAS
SCARED... AND
I... WET-



OH HONEY I
KNOW, IT'S OK

IF THE MEN
FOUND OUT THEY
WOULD BEAT ME AND
MAKE ME PLAY
WITH THEM.

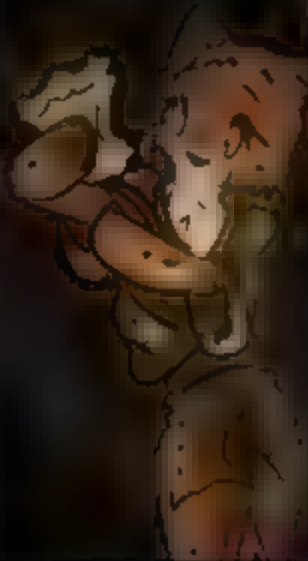
PLAY?

LIKE THEY
PLAY WITH THE
SLAVES?



ARE THERE
ANY MORE LIKE
YOU?

ONLY ME
AND MY FRIEND
MR. FLUFFY PANTS



HE TALKS TO ME
WHEN NO ONE ELSE
WILL LISTEN



WHO ARE YOU
TALKING TO CHILD?

SHHH MR. FLUFFY
PANTS YOU'RE GOING TO
GET US IN TROUBLE



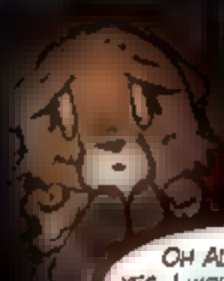
THAT'S NICE HONEY

HE'S REAL,
BUT NO ONE
BELIEVES ME

I'M SURE HE
IS ALICE, BUT RIGHT
NOW IT'S TIME
TO GO.



CAN... I...
KATT... MS. KATT...
CAN I COME WITH
YOU... AWAY?



MY WORD ON MY
LIFE I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU. IF IT TAKES MY
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? LAST BREATH AWAY TO
MAKE SURE YOU ARE AS
SAFE AS THE STARS IN
THE SKY I WILL
GIVE IT



OH ALICE HONEY
YES. I WOULD NOT LEAVE
YOU BEHIND. LOOK AT
ME HONEY



CAN MR.
FLUFFY PANTS
COME TOO?

YES
YOUR DOLL-

MR. FLUFFY PANTS

MR FLUFFY
PANTS CAN
COME TOO.



THANK YOU KATT

YOU ARE
WELCOME PRECIOUS.

I HAVE
BUSINESS HERE
THAT I NEED TO
ATTEND TOO.

WITH...?



NO NOT LIKE THAT MONEY
ONE OF THEM TOOK THE LIFE OF
A VERY DEAR FRIEND OF MINE. HE MUST
PAY FOR HIS COWARDICE. THE REST OF THEM
MUST OFFER THEIR TAINTED SOULS TO THE LADY
OF SCALES UNTIL THEY HAVE PAID FOR
THAT INNOCENT SOULS THEY
HAVE SNUFFED OUT

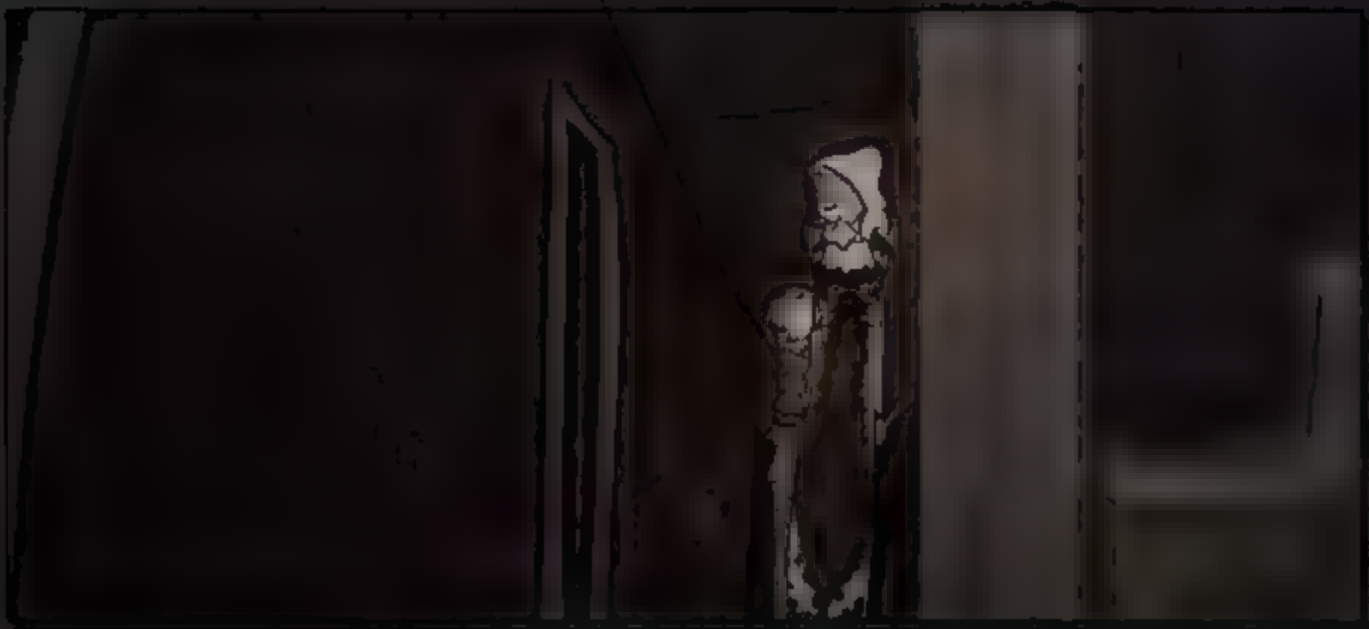
OKAY

YOU MUST
PROMISE ME ONE
THING ALICE.

YES KATT

YOU MUST LISTEN
TO WHAT I SAY, I WILL GET
YOU OUT OF HERE ALIVE BUT IT
IS GOING TO BE DANGEROUS
AND SLOW

YES KATT



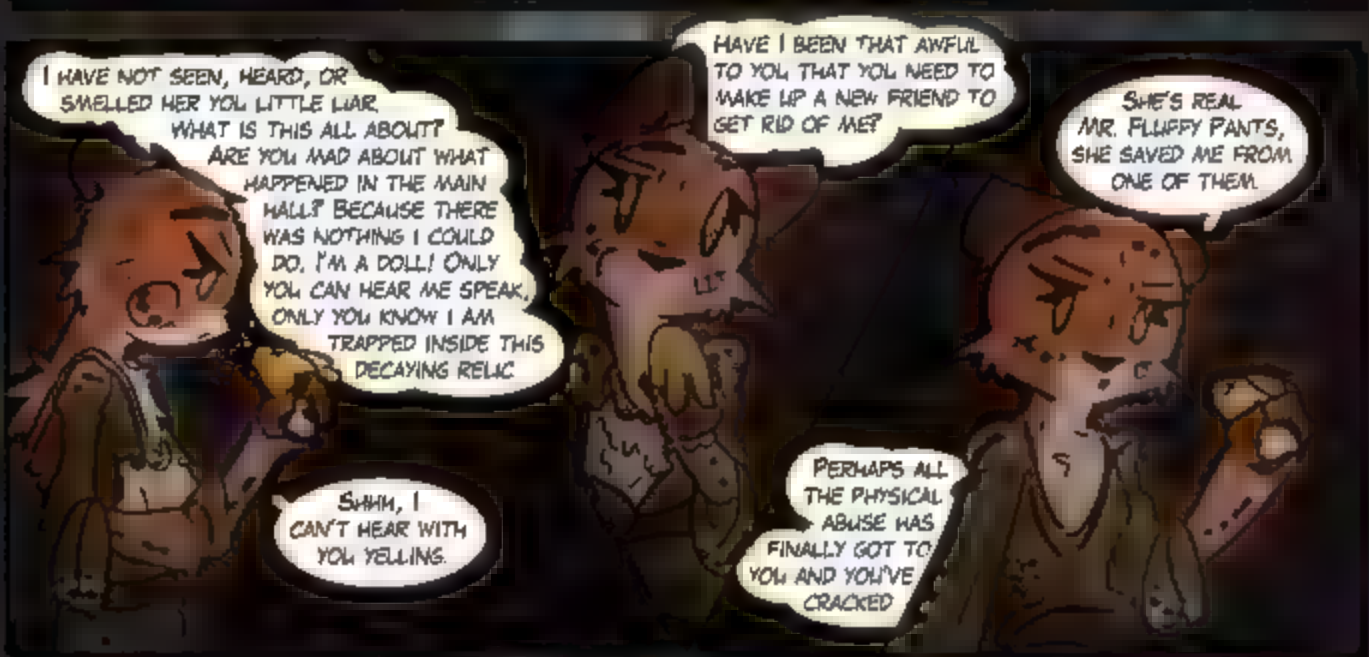


WHO?

KATT

SHE'S NOT
IMAGINARY!

A CAT?
YOU MEAN YOUR
NEW IMAGINARY
FRIEND?



I HAVE NOT SEEN, HEARD, OR
SMELLED HER YOL LITTLE LIAR.
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?
ARE YOU MAD ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENED IN THE MAIN
HALL? BECAUSE THERE
WAS NOTHING I COULD
DO. I'M A DOLL! ONLY
YOU CAN HEAR ME SPEAK,
ONLY YOU KNOW I AM
TRAPPED INSIDE THIS
DECAYING RELIC

HAVE I BEEN THAT AWFUL
TO YOU THAT YOU NEED TO
MAKE UP A NEW FRIEND TO
GET RID OF ME?

SHE'S REAL
MR. FLUFFY PANTS,
SHE SAVED ME FROM
ONE OF THEM.

SHHH, I
CAN'T HEAR WITH
YOU YELLING.

PERHAPS ALL
THE PHYSICAL
ABUSE WAS
FINALLY GOT TO
YOU AND YOU'VE
CRACKED



ALICE
WHO ARE YOU
TALKING TO MONEY
YOU HAVE TO
BE QUIET

I'M SORRY KATT,
MR. FLUFFY PANTS DOESN'T
BELIEVE YOU EXIST

GIRL! WHO ARE
YOU TALKING TO?!

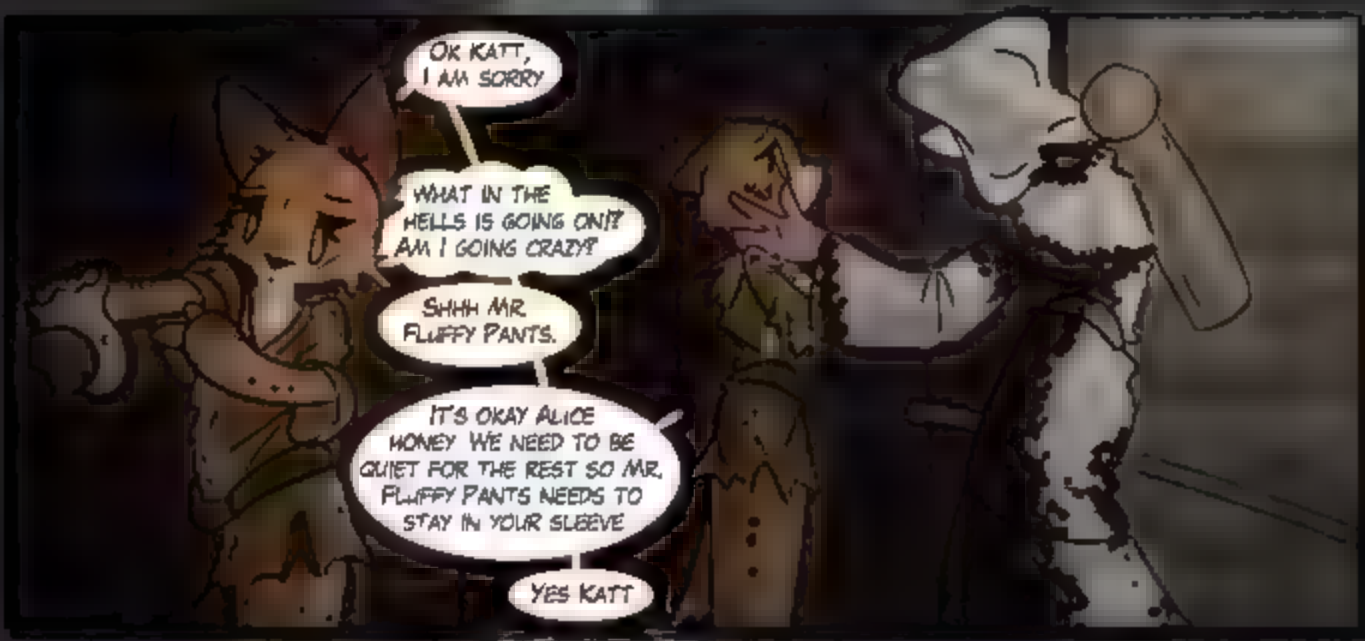


WE'LL PUT
THE BLUNNY-

MR. FLUFFY
PANTS.

WHAT?!

PUT MR. FLUFFY
PANTS AWAY, THE NEXT
FLOOR IS CLEAR.



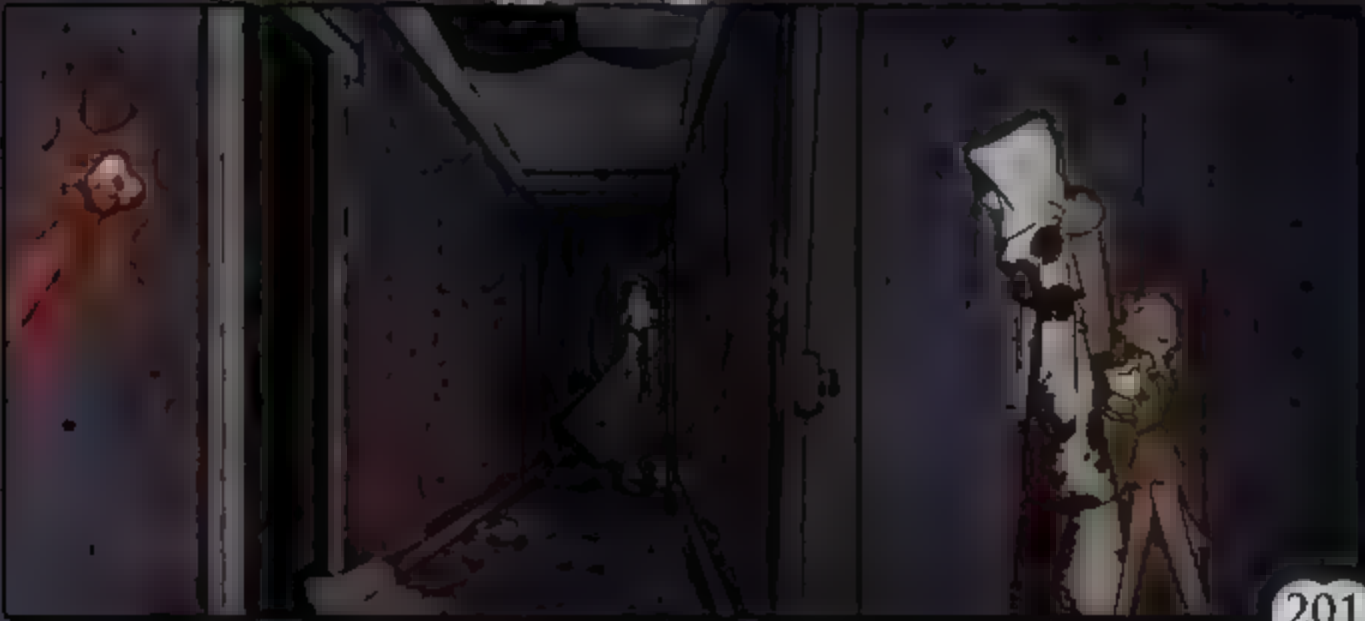
OK KATT,
I AM SORRY

WHAT IN THE
HELLS IS GOING ON?
AM I GOING CRAZY?

SHHH MR.
FLUFFY PANTS.

IT'S OKAY ALICE
MONEY WE NEED TO BE
QUIET FOR THE REST SO MR.
FLUFFY PANTS NEEDS TO
STAY IN YOUR SLEEVE

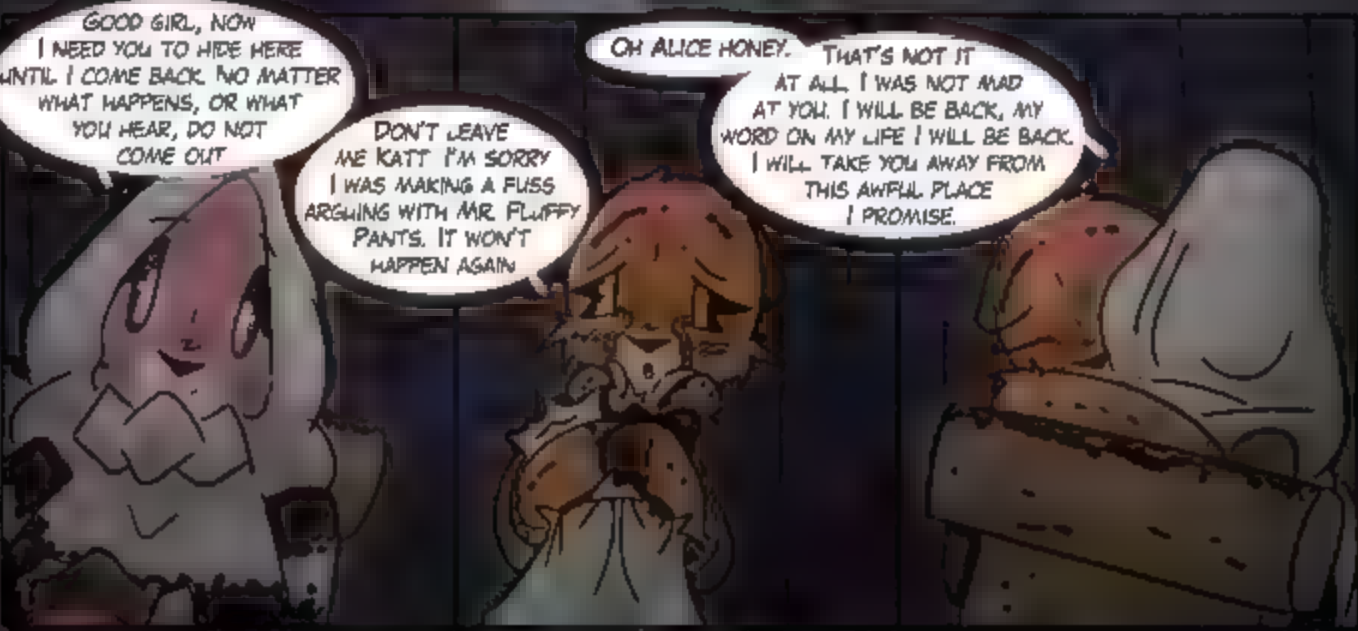
YES KATT





DO YOU KNOW
A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE
ALICE? SOMEWHERE CLOSE
YOU CAN SHOW ME?

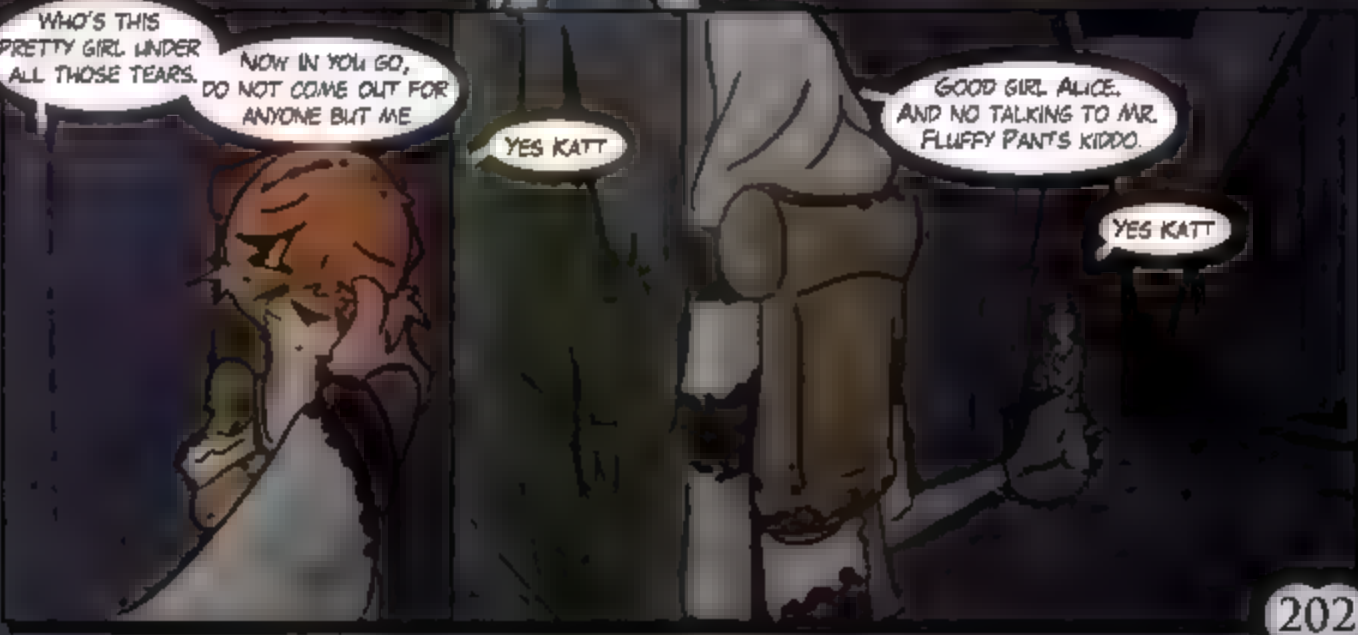
IT GOES ALL THE
WAY DOWN THE HALL AND
EVEN UP TO THE
NEXT FLOOR.



GOOD GIRL, NOW
I NEED YOU TO HIDE HERE
UNTIL I COME BACK. NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS, OR WHAT
YOU HEAR, DO NOT
COME OUT

DON'T LEAVE
ME KATT I'M SORRY
I WAS MAKING A FUSS
ARGUING WITH MR. FLUFFY
PANTS. IT WON'T
HAPPEN AGAIN

OH ALICE HONEY. THAT'S NOT IT
AT ALL. I WAS NOT MAD
AT YOU. I WILL BE BACK, MY
WORD ON MY LIFE I WILL BE BACK.
I WILL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM
THIS AWFUL PLACE
I PROMISE.



WHO'S THIS
PRETTY GIRL UNDER
ALL THOSE TEARS.

NOW IN YOU GO,
DO NOT COME OUT FOR
ANYONE BUT ME

YES KATT

GOOD GIRL ALICE.
AND NO TALKING TO MR.
FLUFFY PANTS KIDDO.

YES KATT

WE SEARCHED
THE SECOND AND THIRD
FLOORS...

AND?

IT WAS A
SLAUGHTER HOUSE
DOWN THERE

BLOOD EVERY
WHERE BUT...

DON'T FUCKING
BUT ME YOU LITTLE
HEMORRHOID.

WELL WE HAD
TROUBLE FINDING
THE BODIES.

I FUCKING TOLD
YOU TO SEND THEM ALL!
HOW MANY DID NOT COME
BACK UP, TEN,
FIFTEEN?

SHUT YOUR
HOLE BEFORE I REACH
IN AND PULL OUT
YOUR LUNGS.

WHERE THE FUCK
DID THEY GO?

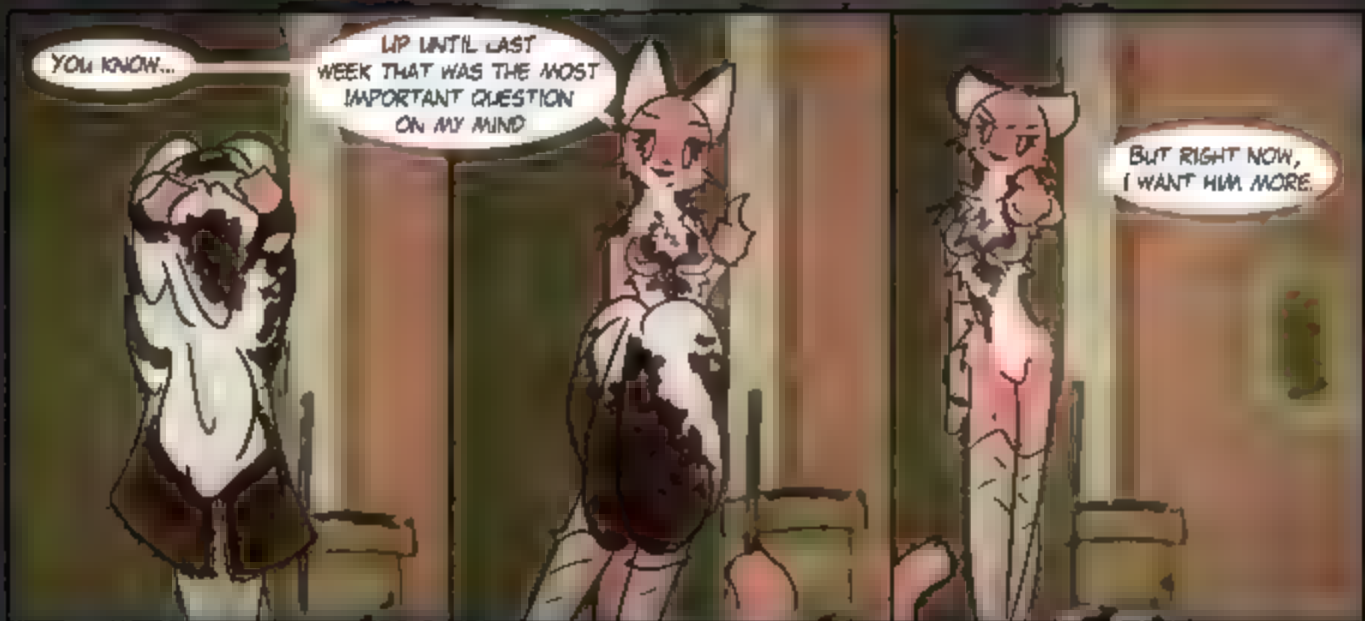
YOU'LL FIND MOST
OF THEM STUFFED INTO WHAT
I ASSUMED TO BE YOUR Hovel.
JUDGING BY ALL THE 'TROPHIES'
ON YOUR WALLS.



TAMIN! BORIS!

WOULD THEY BE
THE TWO HEADLESS FOOLS
IN THE HALL? I WOULD NOT COUNT
ON THEM FOR MUCH MORE
THEN PROVIDING
FERTILIZER.

WHO THE
FUXX ARE YOU?



YOU KNOW...

LIP UNTIL LAST
WEEK THAT WAS THE MOST
IMPORTANT QUESTION
ON MY MIND

BUT RIGHT NOW,
I WANT HIM MORE.



WHAT WOULD YOU
WANT WITH A USELESS
TURD LIKE HIM?

YOU CAN GIVE
HIM TO ME AND I WILL
GIVE YOU A QUICK
DEATH. OR-

YOUR OWN
DEATH WILL BE
SLOW CAT!

RROOAAARRR!!!

AHRRRG

**BLAM!
BLAM!**

**BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!**

CRASH!

SMASH!

RIP!

AAAAHHHHHRRUGL

NOO=HEI

KATT WILL BE BACK
SOON, KATT WILL BE BACK SOON,
KATT WILL BE BACK SOON, KATT
WILL BE BACK SOON.

BLAM!

BLAM!



WHO... WHO
ARE YOU?



I DON'T KNOW.



KILL ME

NO.
THAT JUST WILL
NOT DO. YOU KILLED A LITTLE
GIRL, SHOT HER IN THE BACK AND
RAN HER DOWN. I HELD HER IN MY ARMS
AND WATCHED HER PRECIOUS LIFE BEING
STOLEN AWAY. YOU... I AM GOING TO
WATCH DIE. JUST A PITY YOUR
FRIENDS THERE WENT SO EASILY,
THEY DESERVE THE
SAME PAIN.

NO TELLING
WHAT ATROCITIES
YOU HAVE COMMITTED DURING
YOUR SAD LIFE. ONE THING
IS FOR CERTAIN; YOU KILLED
A VERY DEAR FRIEND
OF MINE.

THE GUILT I HOLD
MY HEART IS GREATER
THAN ANY PAIN YOU WILL EVER
KNOW. YOU WILL REMEMBER
MY FACE IN YOUR FINAL
MOMENTS.

CRACK

HHHHRRRGGL-HURK

YOU WILL WANT
TO REMEMBER MY FACE
EVEN AFTER YOUR PATHETIC LIFE
PASSES ONTO HELL. THERE WILL COME
A TIME IN YOUR ETERNAL TORMENT
WHEN YOU WILL LOOK UP ONE DAY
AND FIND YOURSELF LOOKING
INTO MY EYES AGAIN.

THERE I WILL
SPEND TIME MAKING
SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE
PAIN, THE GRIEF, THE GUILT, I FEEL
IN MY HEART OVER SALLY'S DEATH.
I WILL WATCH YOUR BODY DIE TODAY AND
ON THAT DAY IN HELL I WILL WATCH
YOUR SOUL BE EXTINGUISHED FOR
GOOD. AND AFTER YOU I WILL
MOVE ON TO THEM.

THEIR CRIMES ARE
INNUMERABLE, BUT I WILL MAKE
THEM PAY FOR THE PERVERSITY VISITED
UPON THAT POOR SOUL
DOWNSTAIRS.

HUWAH, WA, HNN
P-PL

NO!
IT IS TOO LATE
FOR REMORSE, TO LATE
TO REPENT, TO LATE TO LIVE
YOUR LIFE AS YOU
SHOULD HAVE.

CR-SNAP!

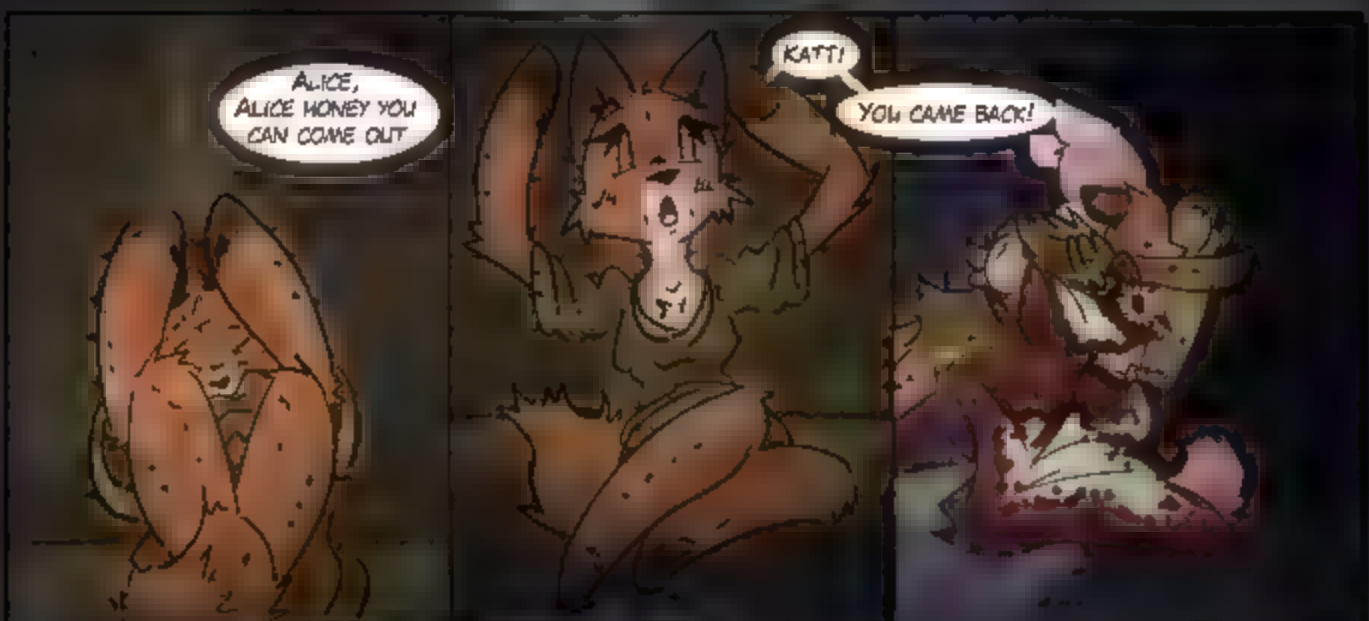
HSCGURGLE-RR
HIK-URUUUUU

SEE YOU IN HELL
LIDELL... SEE YOU
ALL IN HELL.



ALICE?

ALICE?



ALICE,
ALICE MONEY YOU
CAN COME OUT

KATTI!

YOU CAME BACK!



SEE I DID WHAT
YOU SAID. I WAITED, I WAS
QUIET I WAS GOOD. PLEASE DON'T
LEAVE ME, I WAS GOOD. I'LL DO
WHAT EVER YOU WANT,
PLEASE DON'T GO

OH BABY I WONT
LEAVE YOU. YOU WERE
GOOD, THE BEST HIDER. SHHH
IT'S OKAY ALICE. IT'S ALL
OKAY NOW MONEY.



A comic book panel showing a dark, narrow hallway. In the distance, a bright yellow light emanates from an open doorway, suggesting a fire. The floor is dark and reflective, showing some scattered debris. The walls are dark and textured.

OH HONEY
DON'T LOOK, YOU
DON'T NEED TO
SEE THAT



A comic book panel showing a character with pink hair and fox-like ears, wearing a long, flowing red and white dress. The character is standing in a dark, possibly outdoor or semi-outdoor setting with some foliage in the background. The character's expression is somewhat somber or determined.

IT'S OKAY KATT,
THEY DON'T MEAN
ANYTHING TO ME.



YOU HUNGRY
ALICE?



OH YES,
VERY MUCH. I ATE... TWO.
NO THREE DAYS AGO.



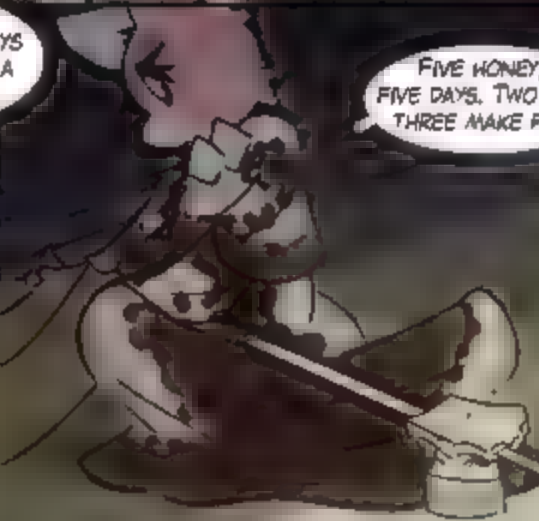
MR. FLUFFY PANTS
AND I STOLE SOME BREAD
TODAY, BUT I ONLY GOT A BITE
BEFORE YOU CAME AND
RESCUED ME



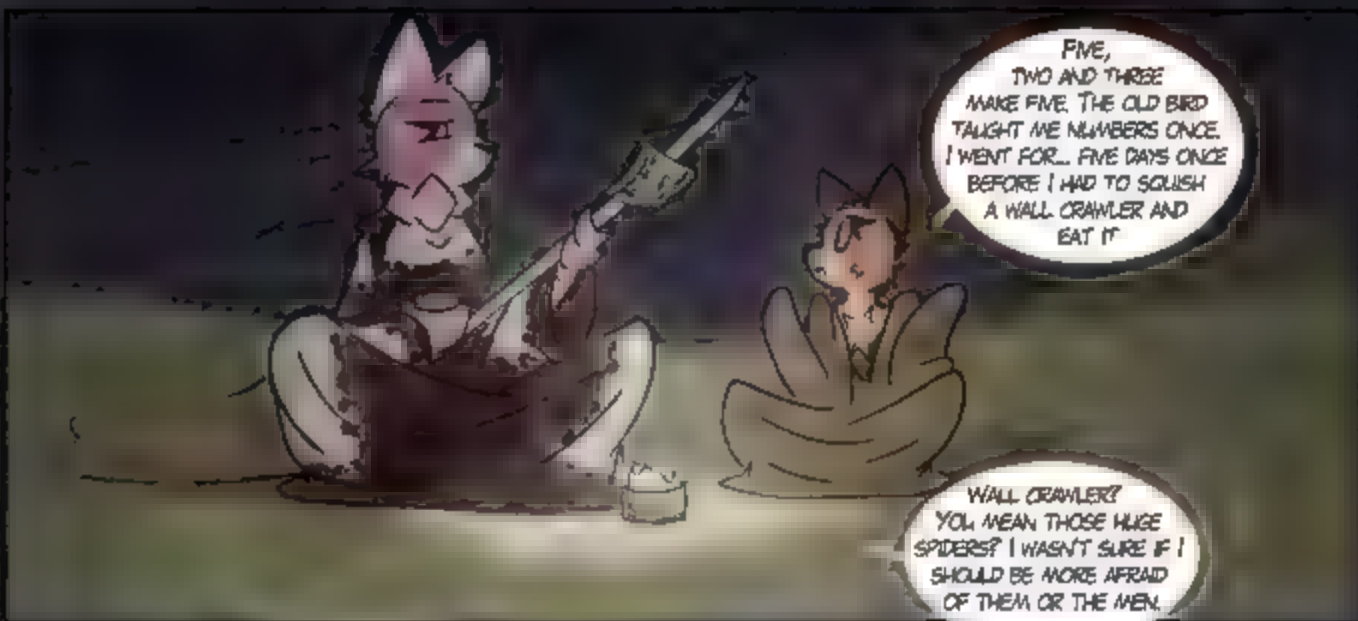
THREE DAYS!
MY DEAR YOU MUST
BE HALF STARVED.



I WENT FOR
FL. TWO MORE DAYS
AND THREE ONCE A
LONG TIME AGO



FIVE HONEY,
FIVE DAYS. TWO AND
THREE MAKE FIVE.



FIVE,
TWO AND THREE
MAKE FIVE. THE OLD BIRD
TAUGHT ME NUMBERS ONCE.
I WENT FOR... FIVE DAYS ONCE
BEFORE I HAD TO SQUISH
A WALL CRAWLER AND
EAT IT

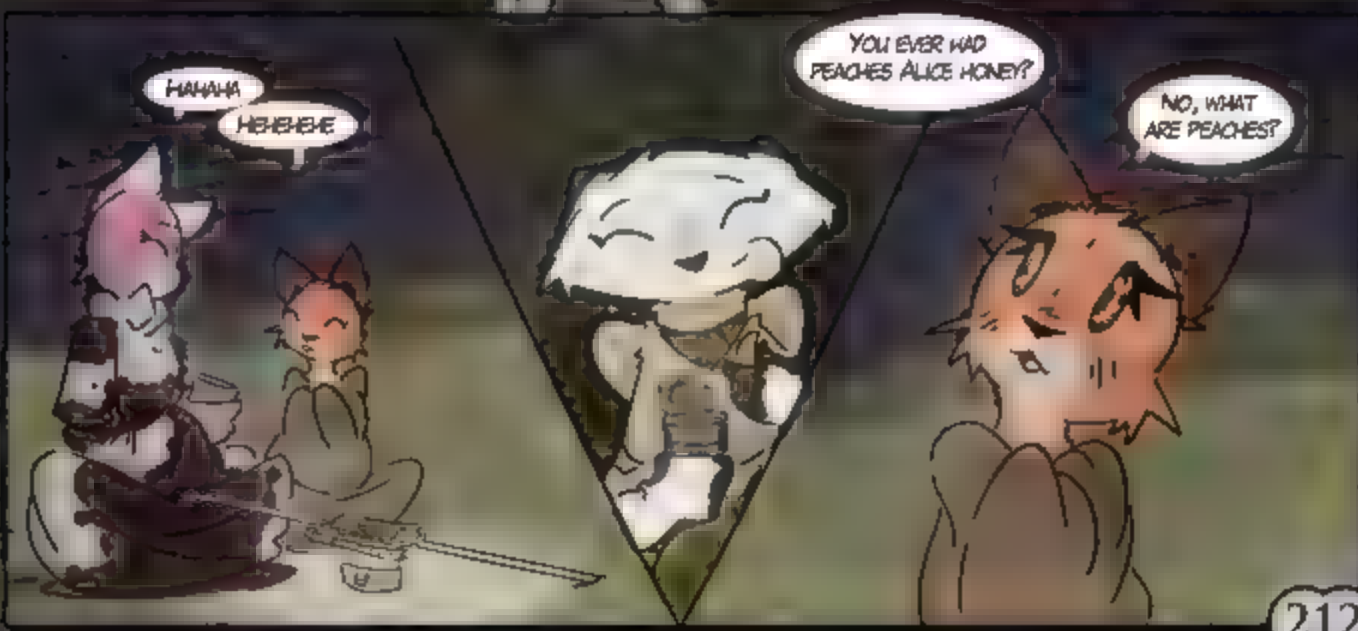
WALL CRAWLERS?
YOU MEAN THOSE HUGE
SPIDERS? I WASN'T SURE IF I
SHOULD BE MORE AFRAID
OF THEM OR THE MEN.



KATT YOU'RE TEASING,
YOU ARE NOT AFRAID OF NOTHING.
THEY CAN'T EVEN BITE YOU.

THEY EAT
GARBAGE BY PEEING ON
IT THEN SUCKING
IT UP

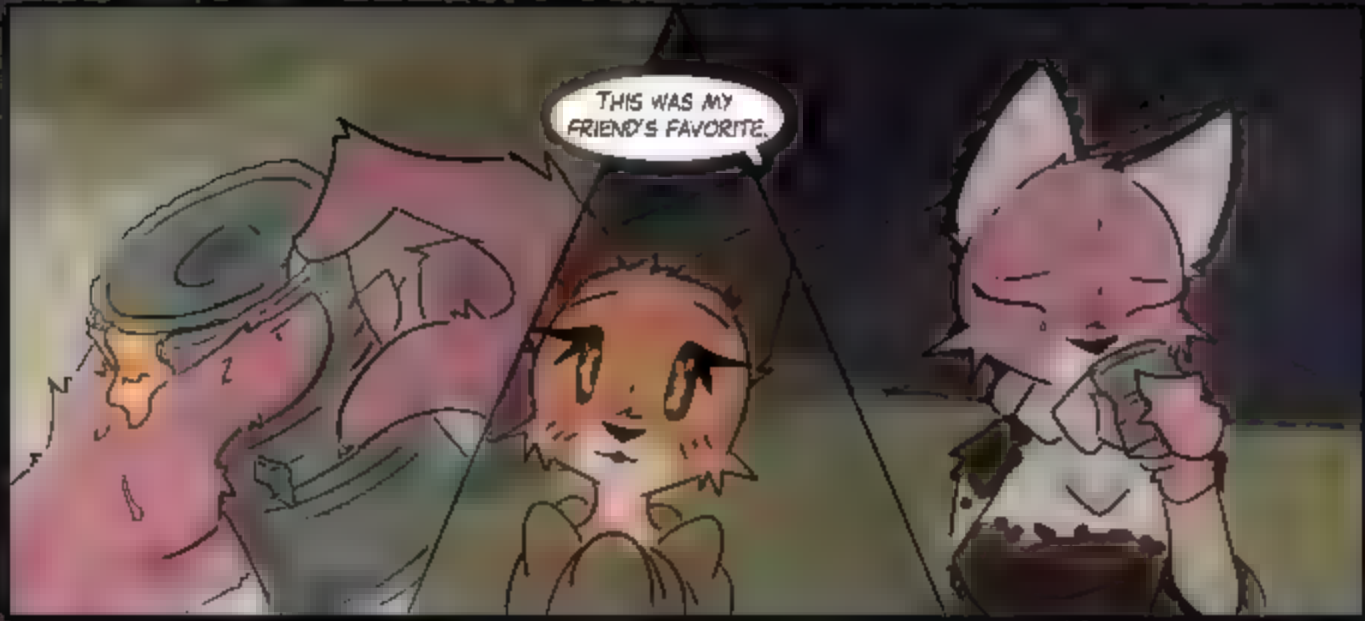
GROSS.



HAHAHA
HEHEHE

YOU EVER HAD
PEACHES ALICE HONEY?

NO, WHAT
ARE PEACHEST?



THIS WAS MY
FRIEND'S FAVORITE.

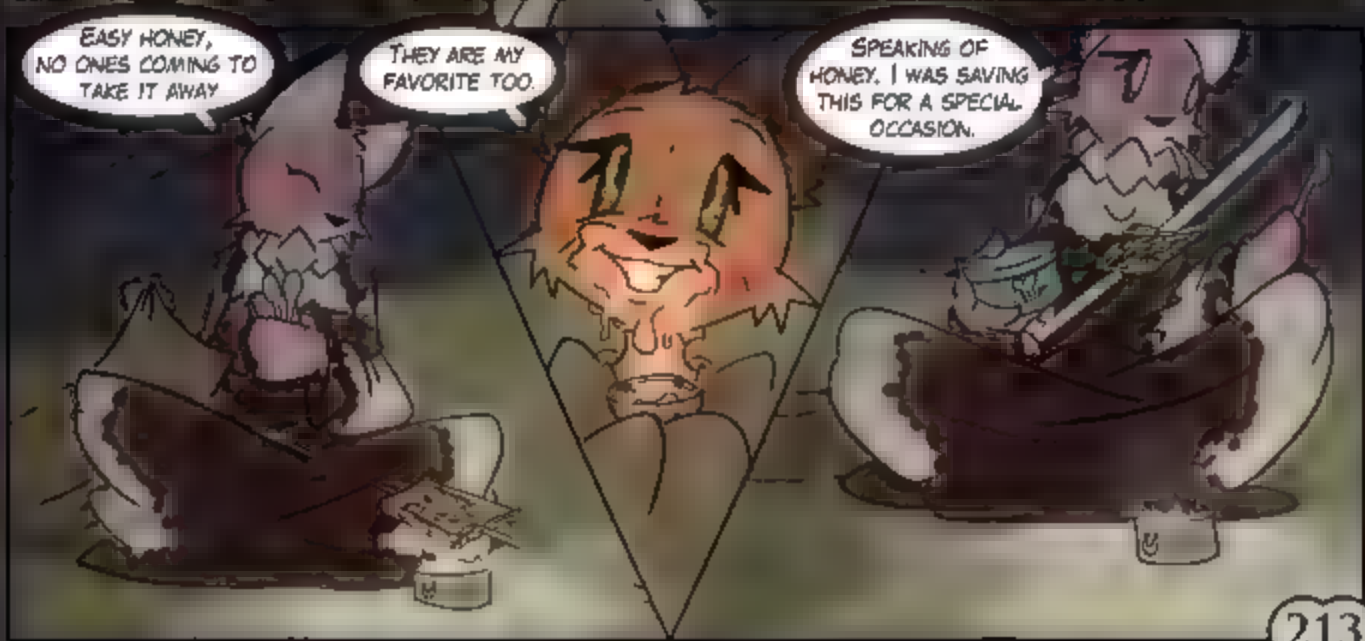


SNIFF

SNIFF



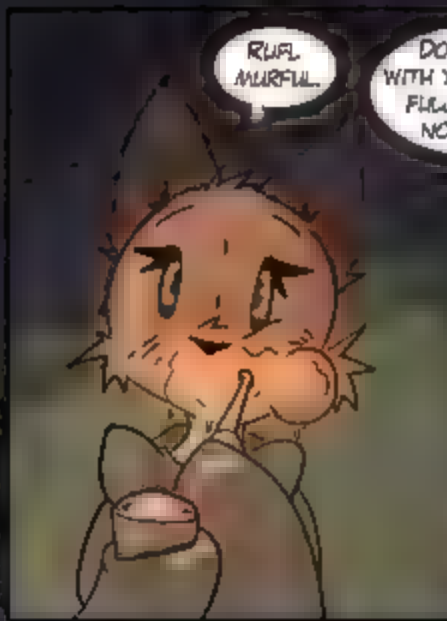
SLUULURRRRP!



EASY MONEY,
NO ONES COMING TO
TAKE IT AWAY

THEY ARE MY
FAVORITE TOO.

SPEAKING OF
MONEY, I WAS SAVING
THIS FOR A SPECIAL
OCCASION.



RUFUS
MURFUL.



DON'T TALK
WITH YOUR MOUTH
FULL DEAR ITS
NOT POLITE



SORRY KATT
WHAT'S THAT
YELLOW BEAN?

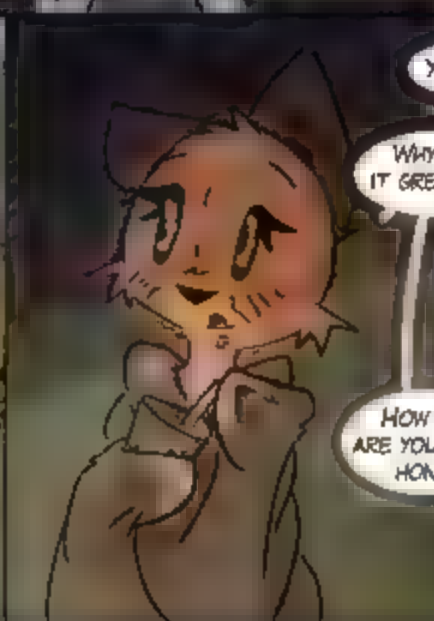
THAT
YELLOW BEAN IS A
BUMBLE BEE

BUMBLY BEE



BACK WHEN
THE WORLD WAS
GREEN AND THE SKY
WAS BLUE THEY
MADE HONEY

THE WORLD
WAS GREEN!?



YES, AND-

WHY ISN'T
IT GREEN NOW?

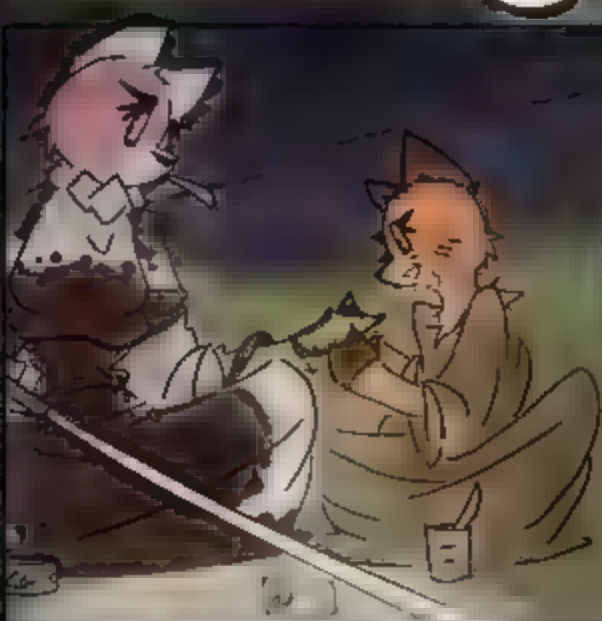
HOW OLD
ARE YOU ALICE
HONEY?



MMMM-FIVE?

YOU ARE TOO OLD TO BE FIVE, I WOULD GUESS YOU ARE ABOUT DOUBLE THAT, LETS SAY TEN.

TEN



FIVE AND FIVE IS TEN.

DOES TWO AND TWO AND TWO AND TWO AND TWO AND TWO MAKE TEN?



YES, YOU ARE A REGULAR MATHEMATICIAN LITTLE ALICE. VERY GOOD, I AM IMPRESSED

THE OLD BIRD TAUGHT ME A LONG TIME AGO

SORMUNCH!
SORMUNCH!
SORMUNCH!





HOW LONG
WERE YOU IN THAT
PLACE HONEY?



FOREVER
THIS IS THE SECOND
TIME I HAVE GOT TO BE
OUTSIDE. THIS IS FROM
BUMBLY BEES? THEY MUST
TASTE THE BEST



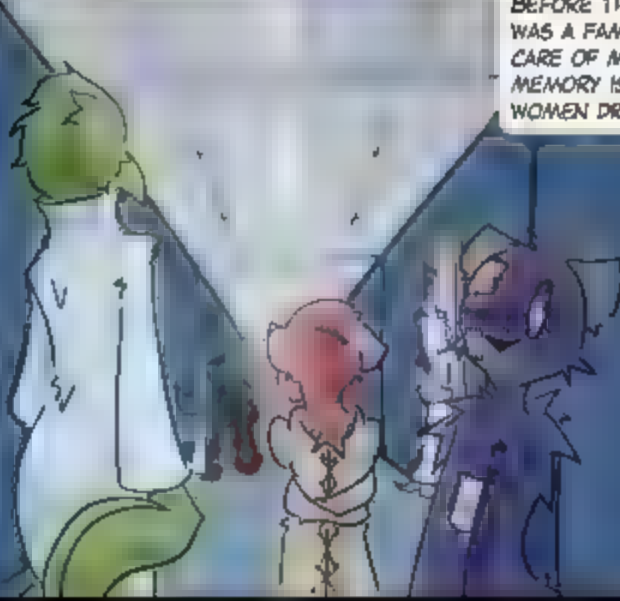
IT IS CALLED
HONEY AND THE BEES
MAKE IT. YOU SAID THIS WAS
YOUR SECOND TIME OUTSIDE?
HAVE YOU BEEN IN THERE
ALL YOUR LIFE?

YESH-MEER!

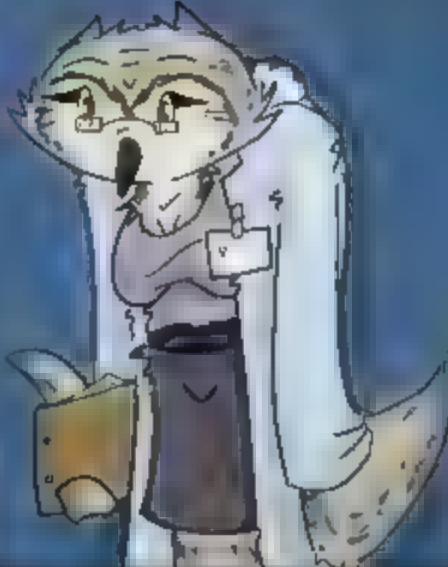
MUNCH
SLOW DOWN
MY LITTLE BUMBLY BEE
OR YOU ARE GOING TO
GET A TUMMY ACHIE.



IT'S OKAY KATT,
MY TUMMY ALREADY HURTS.
THIS MAKES IT FEEL WONDERFUL.
I'VE NEVER EVER HAD TWO
THINGS AS GOOD
AS THESE.



BEFORE THE BAD MEN CAME THERE
WAS A FAMILY OF WOMEN THAT TOOK
CARE OF ME FOR A BIT. MY FIRST
MEMORY IS OF BLUE HALLS, AND THE
WOMEN DRESSED IN WHITE.



I DO NOT REMEMBER WHERE THE OTHERS
WENT BUT ONLY ONE STAYED. AN OLD BENT
BIRD. SHE HAD STUFFING MANGING OUT
OF HER BACK SEAM. SHE SHOWED ME HOW
TO GET FOOD FROM THE BASEMENT



AND THEN SHE
WENT AWAY AND I WAS
ALL BY MYSELF ALL THE
DOORS GOING UP WERE LOCKED
AND I COULD NOT GET OUT
SO I WENT DOWN. WAY,
WAY, WAY, DOWN.



I DON'T THINK
THE OLD BIRD EVEN
KNEW HOW FAR DOWN YOU
COULD GO. NOT EVEN
THE MEN KNEW HOW
FAR DOWN.

I FOUND
MR. FLUFFY PANTS
ALL THE WAY AT THE
BOTTOM. HE WAS STUCK
IN A RUSTY OLD BOX IN
A DARK CORNER ALL
ALONE LIKE ME.



CAREFUL YOU'LL
GET HIM ALL STICKY
YOU CAN SHOW
ME LATER

OKAY

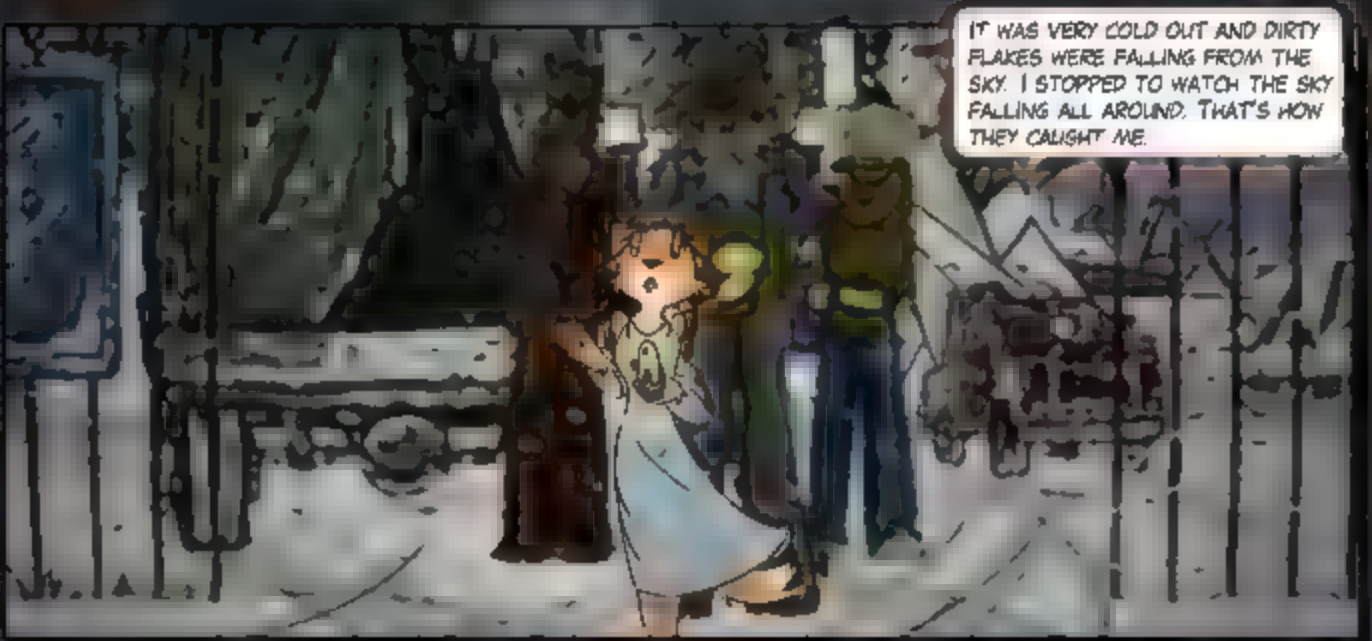


HOW DID
YOU GET OUT?





WHEN THE MEN CAME THEY BROKE
DOWN ALL THE DOORS BECAUSE NONE
OF THEM OPENED. I RAN OUTSIDE
WHEN THEY WERE BREAKING STUFF



IT WAS VERY COLD OUT AND DIRTY
FLAKES WERE FALLING FROM THE
SKY. I STOPPED TO WATCH THE SKY
FALLING ALL AROUND. THAT'S HOW
THEY CAUGHT ME.



I'M SORRY
ALICE

YOU WANTED TO
KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE
WHEN THE WORLD
WAS GREEN?

YES!

WE'LL LET
ME TELL YOU...



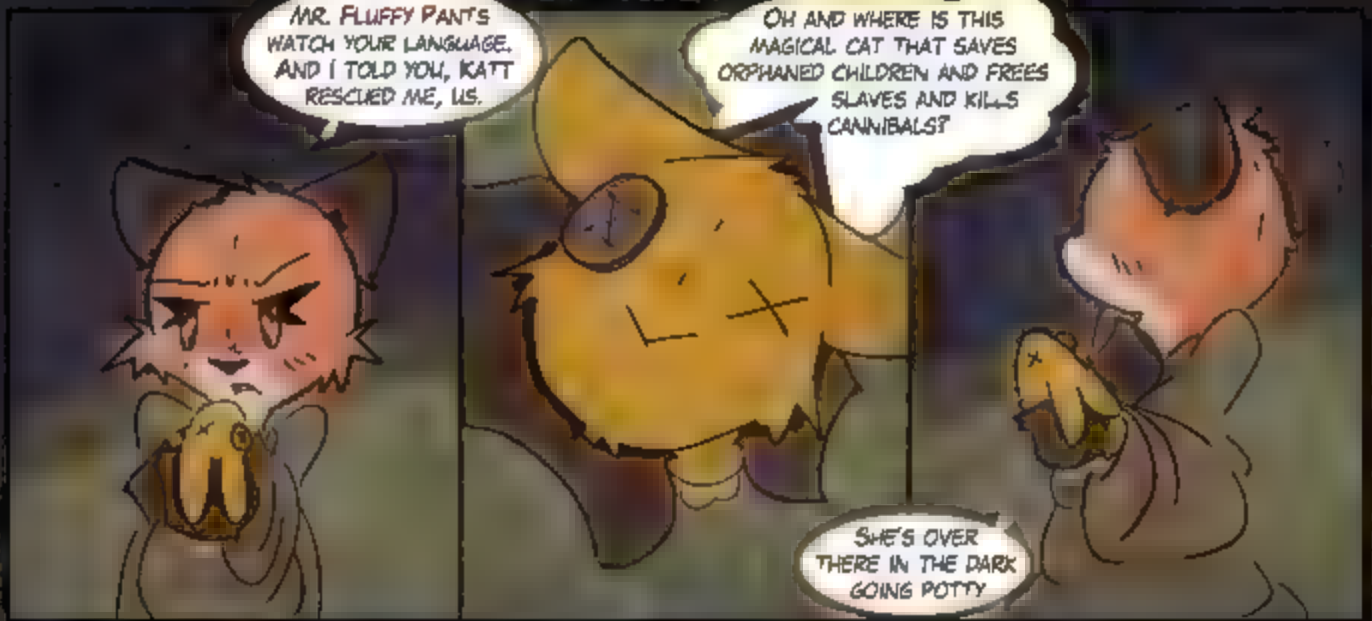
KATT?

IT'S OKAY
ALICE, I JUST
HAVE TO RELIEVE
MYSELF I'LL BE RIGHT
OVER THERE BY
THAT ROCK

OK



WHAT DO
YOU TH- BY THE GREAT
HAIRY SACK OF SHIFFU,
WHERE IN MAL-CROTH ARE WE?
WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING
ON CHILD?!



MR. FLUFFY PANTS
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE.
AND I TOLD YOU, KATT
RESCUED ME, US.

OH AND WHERE IS THIS
MAGICAL CAT THAT SAVES
ORPHANED CHILDREN AND FREES
SLAVES AND KILLS
CANNIBALS?

SHE'S OVER
THERE IN THE DARK
GOING POTTY



GIRL HAVE YOU
GONE TOTALLY INSANE?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE
OR DID YOU FINALLY
JUST RUN AWAY?

NO IT'S NOT
A JOKE. WHY DON'T
YOU BELIEVE ME MR.
FLUFFY PANTS?

I CANNOT AND
HAVE NOT SEEN HIDE
NOT STITCH OF THIS
SAVIOR.



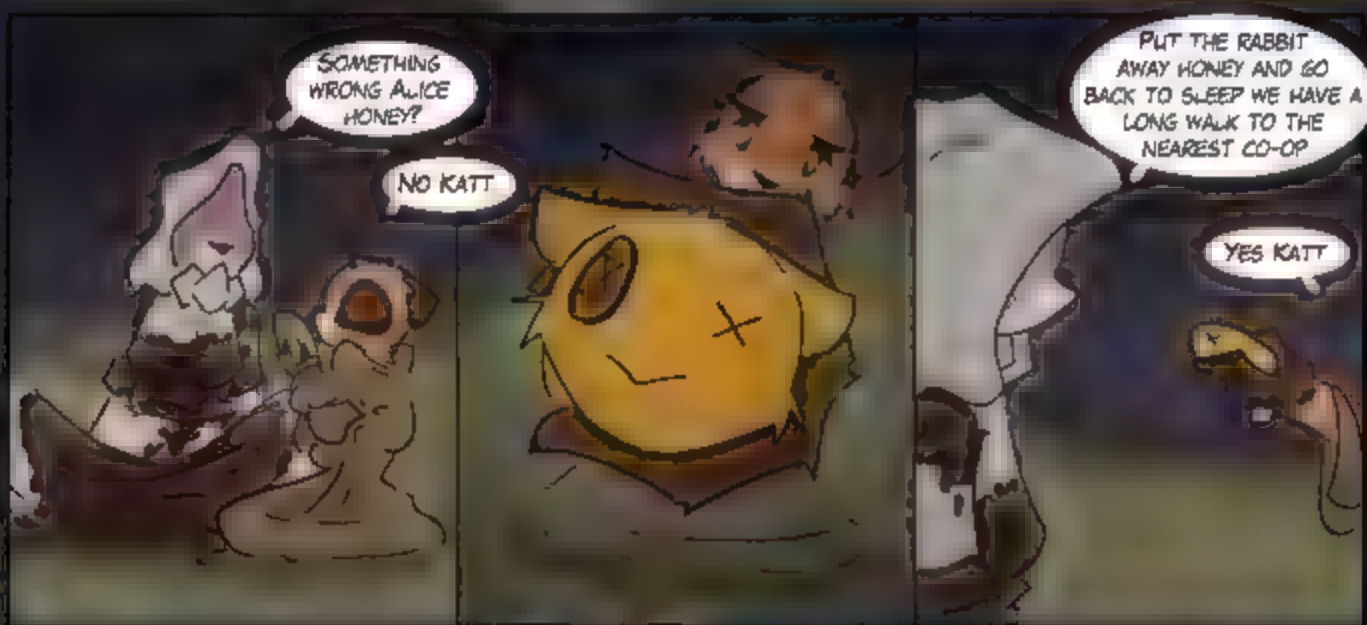
SHE TAUGHT ME
HOW TO COUNT TO TEN.
I GOT TO EAT BUMBLBY BEE'S
HONEY AND, AND, SHE TOLD
ME ABOUT WHEN THE
WORLD WAS GREEN!

GREAT I'VE BEEN SHANGHAIED
BY AN IMAGINARY FRIEND AND A
LITTLE GIRL WITH AN OVERACTIVE
IMAGINATION. YOU DO REALIZE
WITHOUT HELP WE ARE BOTH
GOING TO DIE OF EXPOSURE
OUT HERE. WELL YOU WILL
DIE, I WILL BE LEFT TO ROT FOR
THE NEXT TEN YEARS UNTIL THERE
IS NOTHING LEFT BUT MY
REMAINING EYE.



MR. FLUFFY
PANTS YOU-

HERE SHE
COMES YOU CRANKY
BUNNY



SOMETHING
WRONG ALICE
HONEY?

NO KATT



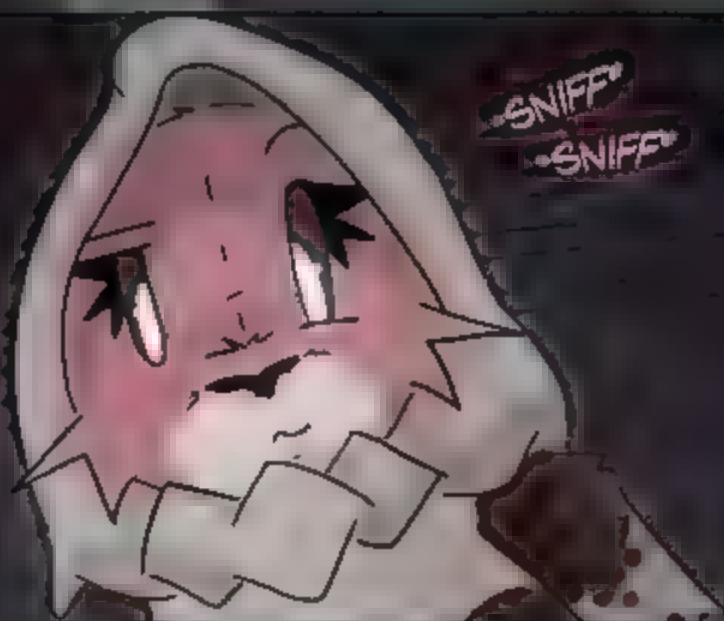
PUT THE RABBIT
AWAY HONEY AND GO
BACK TO SLEEP WE HAVE A
LONG WALK TO THE
NEAREST CO-OP

YES KATT



SERIOUSLY?
GIRL ARE YOU
HALLUCINATING,
THERE IS NOTHING
THERE!

NO! YOU
ARE BLIND MR.
FLUFFY PANTS.



I THINK WE
BOTH NEED A BATH
AND A CHANGE OF
CLOTHES.

YES KATT

OKAY ALICE
REPEAT THE FIRST
FIVE RULES OF
THE ROAD



ONE.
DON'T STOP. STOPPED PEOPLE ARE
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE OR WAITING
FOR TROUBLE TO FIND THEM.



TWO.
BE VIGILANT, ALWAYS BE AWARE
OF YOUR SUR-SURROUNDINGS.



THREE.
IF THERE IS ONE PERSON ON THE
ROAD THERE ARE MORE OFF IT



FOUR.
DON'T TALK TO PEOPLE ON THE ROADS.
AND DO NOT MAKE EYES CONTACT



FIVE.
IF THERE IS A BIG SHAPE ON THE
ROAD HIDE UNTIL IT PASSES.



VERY GOOD
ALICE. YOU ARE VERY
SMART. READY FOR
THE NEXT FIVE?

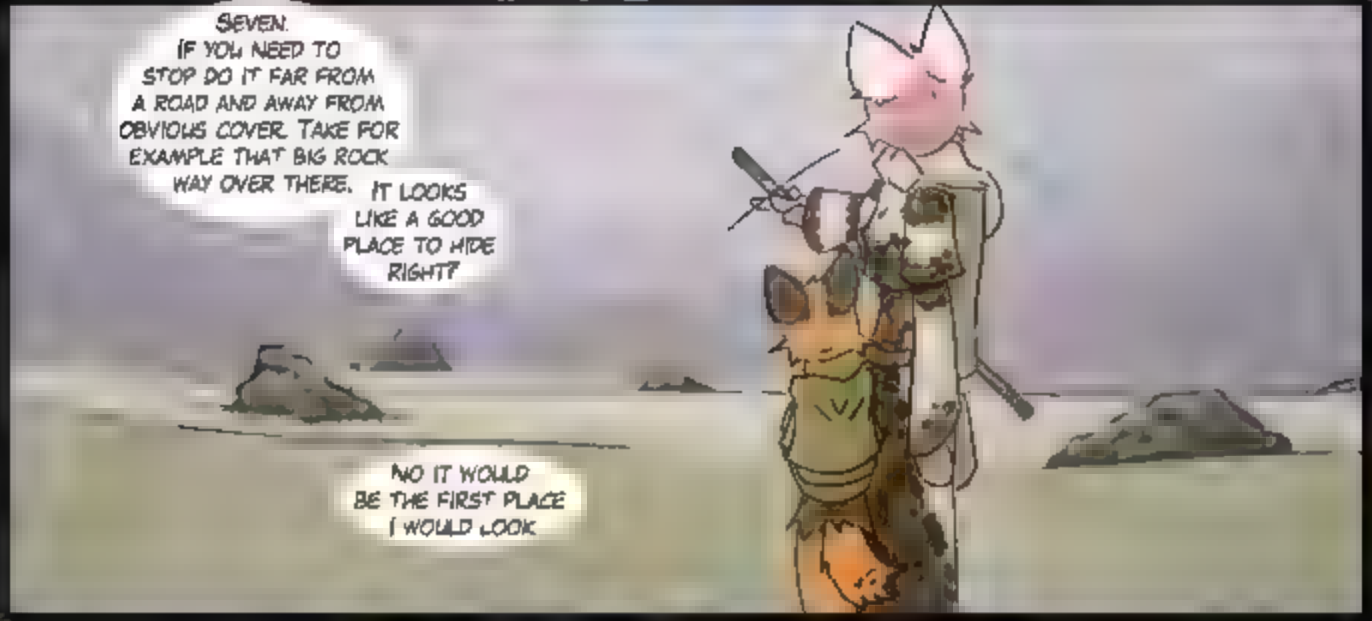


YES
KATT!



SIX.
QUESTIONS...
QUESTIONS CAN GET
YOU KILLED, QUESTIONS
WILL NOT KILL YOU BUT IF YOU
ASK THE WRONG PEOPLE THEY WILL
KILL YOU. SO ONLY ASK PEOPLE
YOU TRUST QUESTIONS. DO
YOU UNDERSTAND?

YES KATT



SEVEN.
IF YOU NEED TO
STOP DO IT FAR FROM
A ROAD AND AWAY FROM
OBVIOUS COVER. TAKE FOR
EXAMPLE THAT BIG ROCK
WAY OVER THERE. IT LOOKS
LIKE A GOOD
PLACE TO HIDE
RIGHT?

NO IT WOULD
BE THE FIRST PLACE
I WOULD LOOK



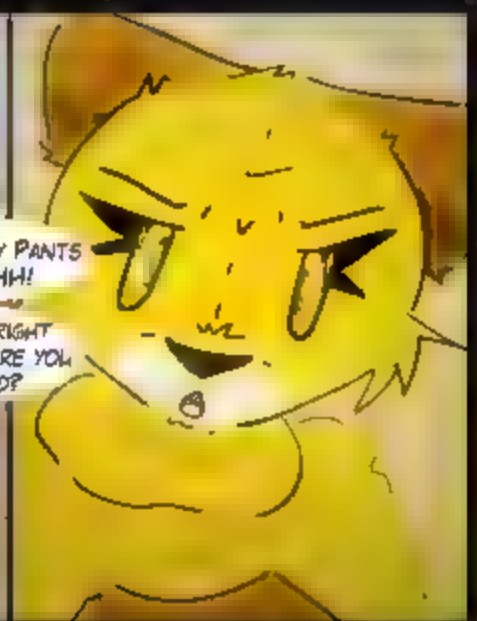
YOU ARE
TOO CLEVER.

NO YOU
ARE CLEVER KATT
I JUST HAVE A LOT OF
PRACTICE HIDING.

SO YOU
DO DEAR.



GIRL! WHO ARE YOU
TALKING TO? THIS IS
THE THIRD INSTANCE OF
YOUR SOUR MENTAL
BREAK TALKING
TO NOTHING!



MR. FLUFFY PANTS
SHHHH!

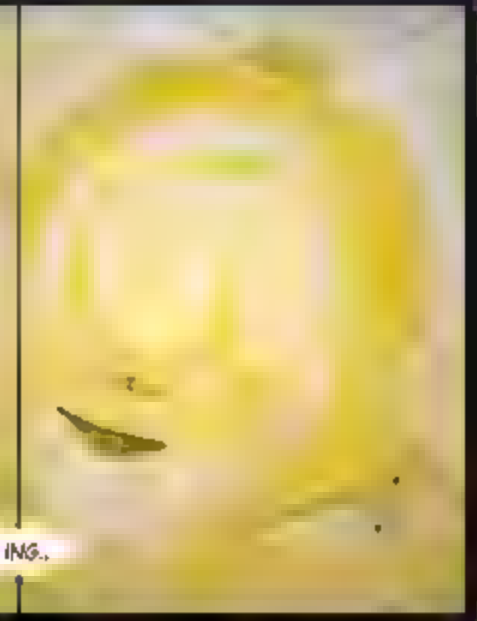
SHE IS RIGHT
THERE! ARE YOU
BLIND?



WH-
WHAT ARE...



YOU



DO.. ING..



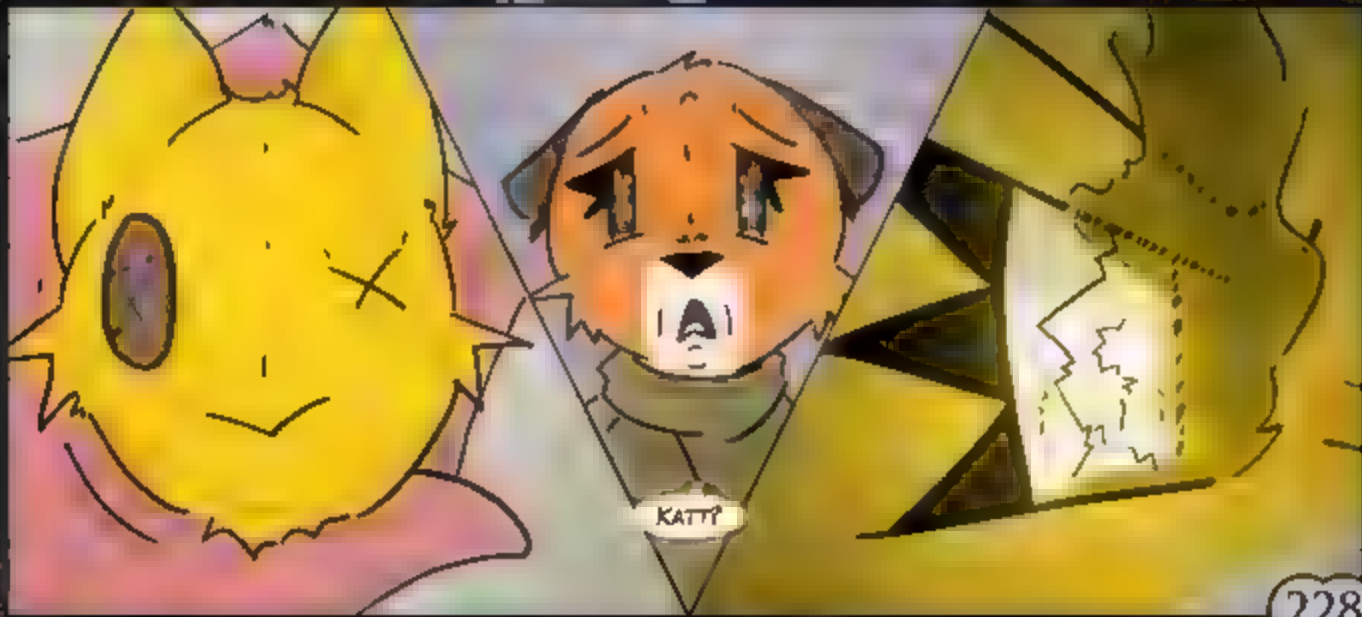
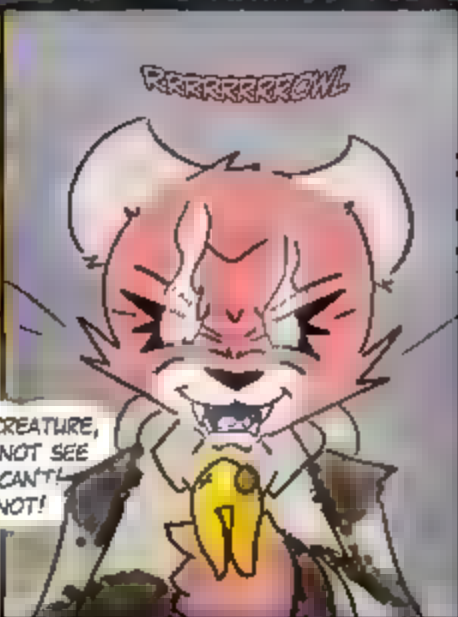
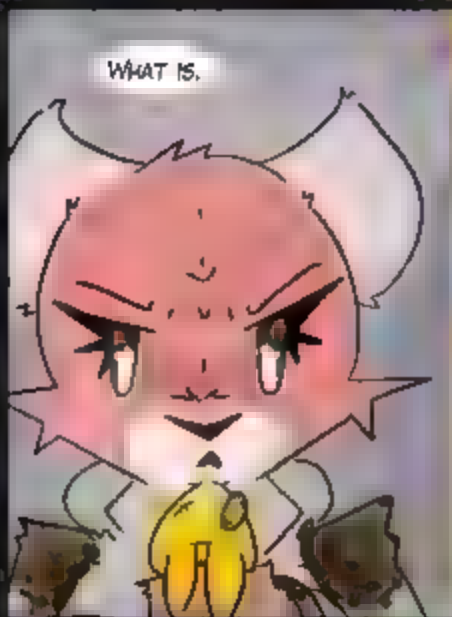
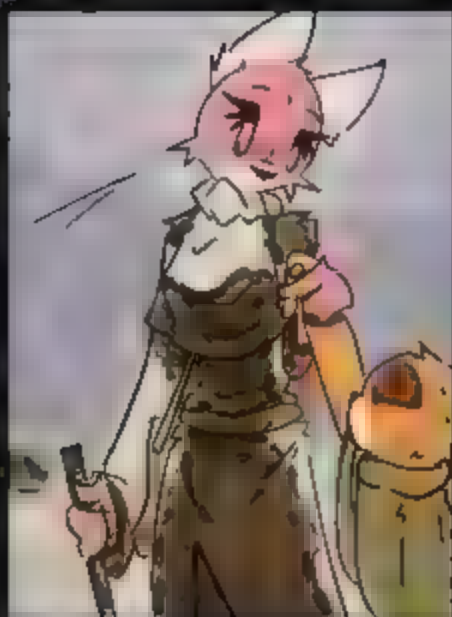
NO...



WHAT IS IT HONEY?



MR. FLUFFY PANTS.



YOU ARE THERE,
YOU CANNOT EVADE
ME FOREVER. I DO NOT
KNOW WHAT THIS
FEELING IS.

IT IS NEW TO
ME, LIKE THE FEEL
OF THE HUNT. THE THRILL
EVERY INDIVIDUAL
PROVIDES.

THEIR DISTINCT
FLAVORS AND
PATTERNS.

NO...

THIS IS...



CURSE YOUR NAME!
YOU ARE NOT OF ASCENDED
STOCK, NOR REEK OF
ELDRITCH.

WHAT ARE YOU?
YOU, YOU CAN FEEL
ME. PHYSICALLY
FEEL ME!

NOT EVEN THE
CHILD CAN DO THAT
YOU ARE SOMETHING
NEW. MADNESS OF
UTTER GENIUS.

DIFFFERENT...

GOTCHA!



KATT NO!

HURK,
RRRWA-LIK

KATT
PLEASE NO!



MOMMY-
KATT DON'T HURT
MR. FLUFFY PANTS
I-I WILL DIE
WITHOUT HIM.

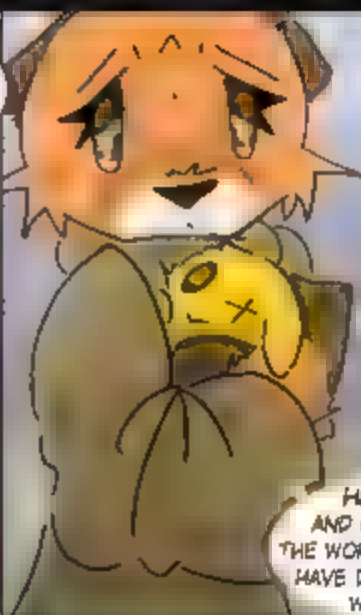


WH-WHAT
DID YOU CALL
ME?

I'M SORRY
KATT I...



I-I DON'T QUITE
UNDERSTAND WHAT
JUST HAPPENED. EITHER
I JUST HAD AN ANEURISM AND
A BLOOD VESSEL BURST
IN MY HEAD OR...



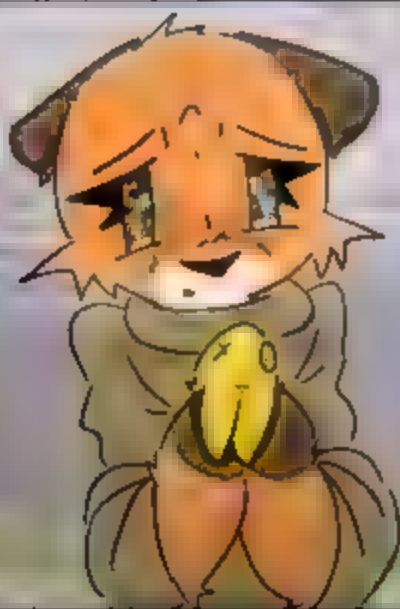
HE'S MY BEST
AND ONLY FRIEND IN
THE WORLD KATT. I WOULD
HAVE DIED MANY TIMES
WITHOUT HIM.



No...



NO. ALICE
MONEY, THERE...
THERE IS SOMETHING...
PERPENDICULAR HERE.
JUST NOT RIGHT



YOU DON'T
KNOW KATT.
HE...

HET



MR. FLUFFY PANTS.
HE IS ALWAYS THERE
WITH ME IN THE DARK. THE
ONLY PERSON THAT WANTED
NOTHING OF ME. HE... HE
LISTENED WHEN NO
ONE ELSE WOULD.

OH ALICE HONEY,
I AM SORRY. I DIDN'T
MEAN TO UPSET YOU,
I'M SORRY



NO, I'M SORRY
KATT. IT'S NOT YOUR
FAULT, I BRING BAD LUCK
TO EVERY ONE AROUND
ME. I AM BAD.



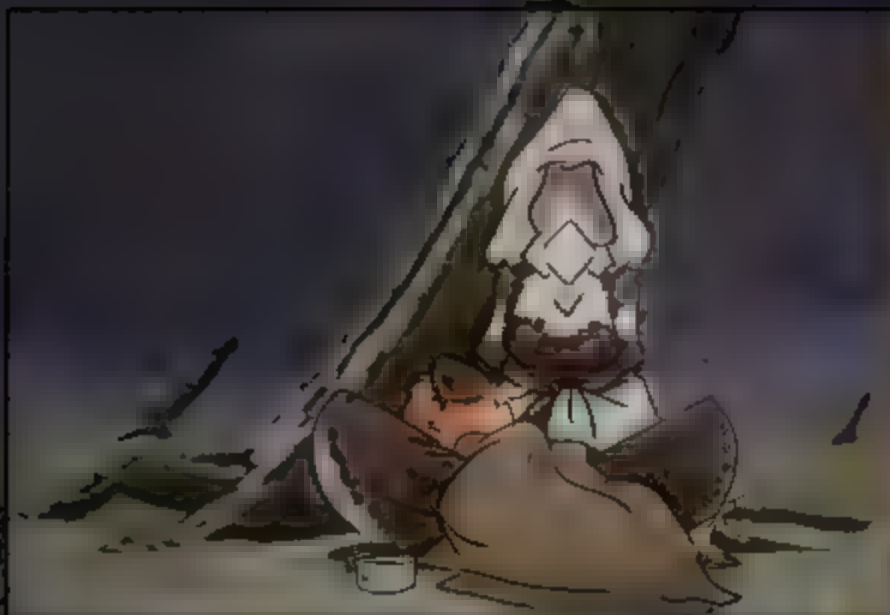
NO SWEETIE
ALICE HONEY YOU
ARE GOOD. YOU ARE
PROBABLY THE ONLY GOOD
PERSON LEFT ON THIS
ROCK. YOU KEEP YOUR
RABBIT HONEY

IT, HE WILL
NOT BE HARMED
BY MY PAW NOR THAT
OF ANY OTHER UNTIL
YOU GIVE THE WORD



WE WILL CONTINUE THIS
LATER ABOMINATION!





WHAT A
NUISANCE
HOW...

I WONDER...



WELL I'LL BE
BLESSED, THERE
SHE IS. I CAN SEE HER
THROUGH THE CHILD'S EYES
OR IF THE BEAST HERSELF
TOUCHES ME, BUT I CANNOT
HEAR HER UNTIL SHE
TOUCHES ME.
HMMMM

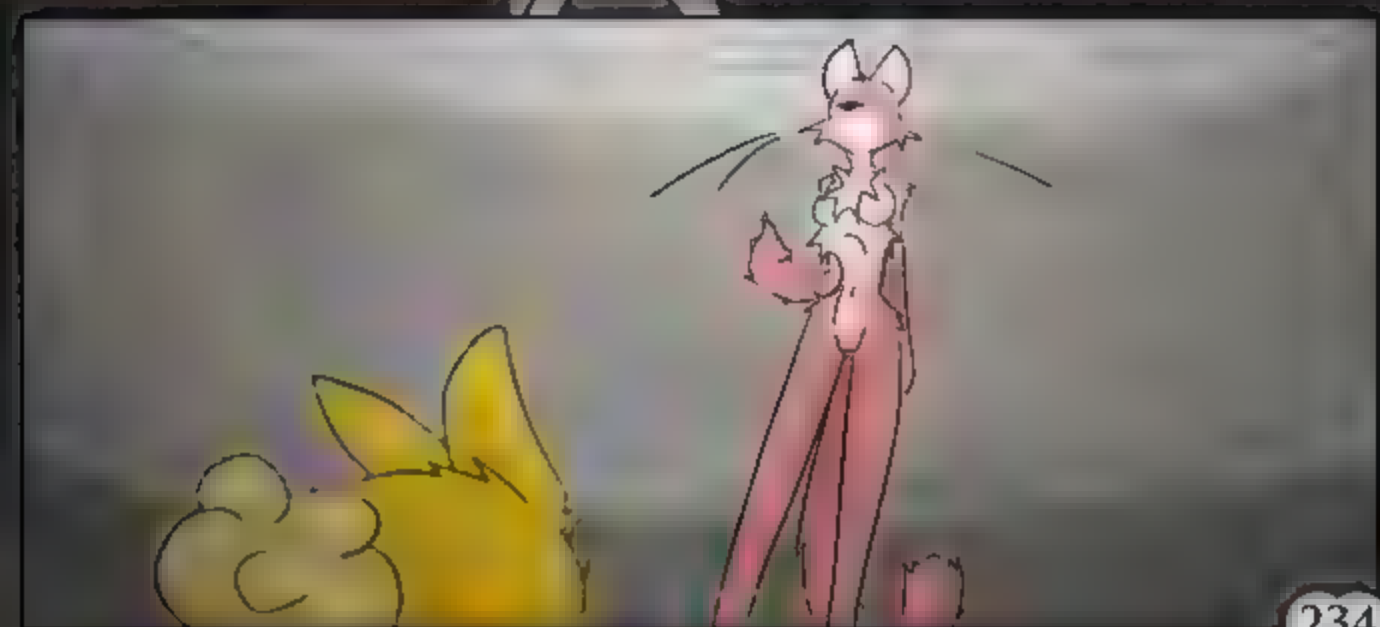
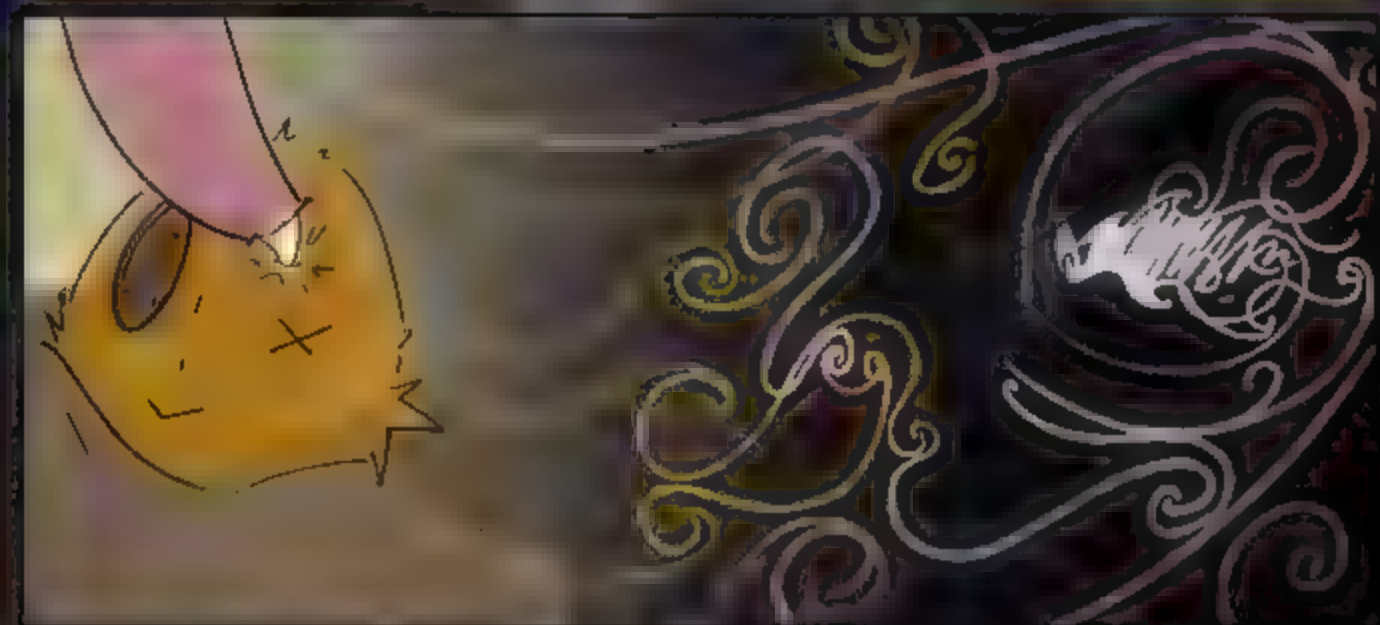


CURSE THIS
PARASITIC EXISTENCE,
NOT EVEN ABLE TO
VIEW TWO SENSES
AT A TIME



EITHER SHE IS ASLEEP
OR I AM CONFRONTED WITH
THE UNFORTUNATE TRUTH THAT
I AM TWICE AS FUCKED IN THE
HEARING DEPARTMENT BACK
TO THE WORMS EYES

DAWN WHA-



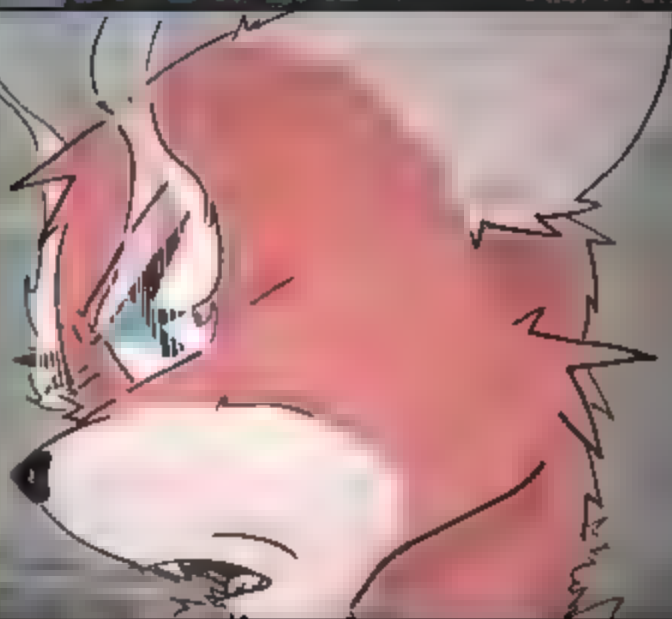
I DO NOT KNOW
WHAT YOU ARE BUT DEEP
DOWN SOMETHING TELLS ME
THEY HAD PLANNED ACCORDINGLY
FOR A SITUATION
SUCH AS THIS.



I CAN FEEL YOU...
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME,
I HAVE NO TELEPATHIC ABILITIES
BUT I KNOW YOU
ARE LISTENING.

NO WAY TO
POSSESS A MIND LIKE
YOURS.

I HEAR YOU
CREATURE



DO NOT CALL
ME CREATURE,
ABOMINATION!



AND FROM WHAT
DISEASED ORIFICE DID
YOU CRAWL FROM!

I AM IN CONTROL
HERE. IT WOULD ONLY
TAKE ME A MOMENT TO FIND
YOU, THIS IS NOT YOUR
TRUE FORM.

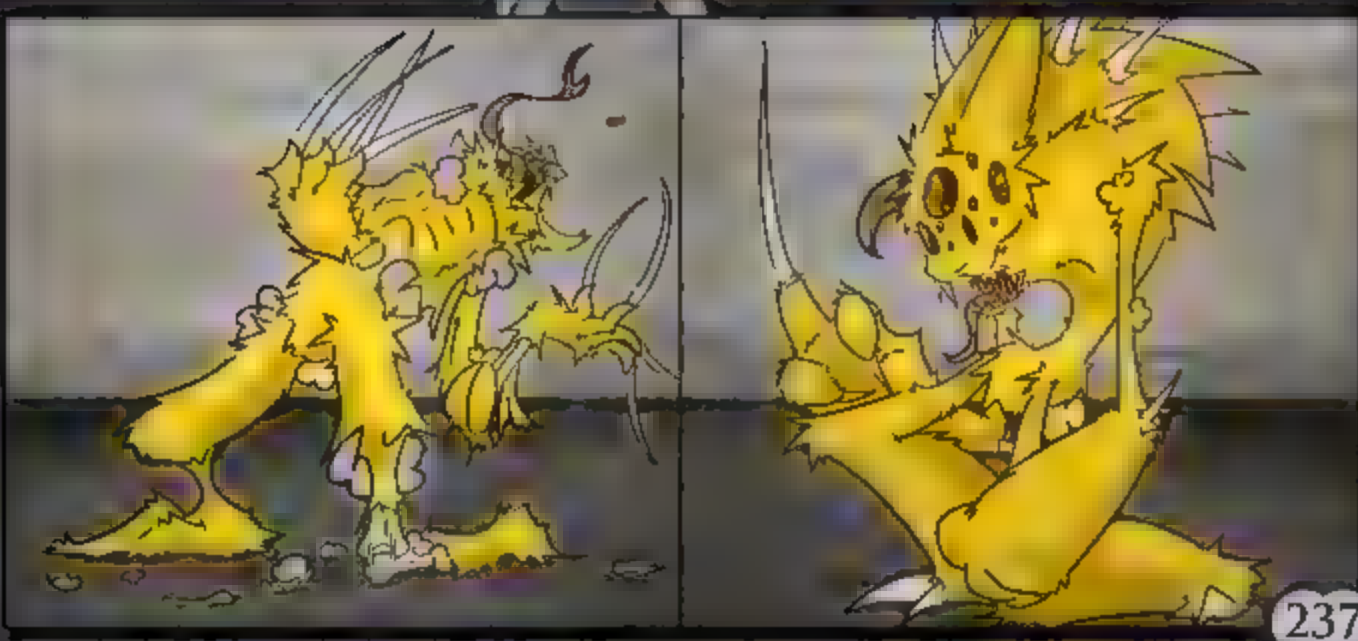
AAAAH-OH!

ALRIGHT NO NEED
FOR ME TO BE FORCED TO
ADMIT I'M A COWARD
SUGA TITS.

TRY THE ATTITUDE
AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE SHORT
A PAIR OF EARS. SHOW YOURSELF
BEFORE I GUT YOU FOR
YOUR INSOLENCE.

SHIR-KAPOO!

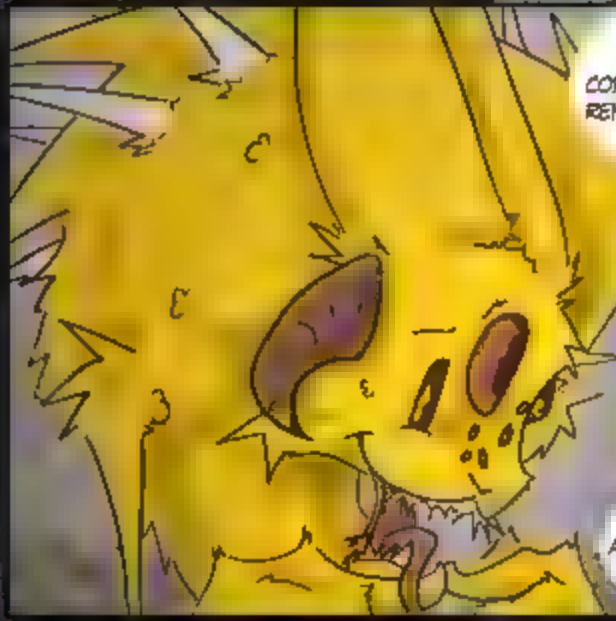
SHIR-KAPOO!





YOU DONE?

WHAT ARE
YOU SUPPOSED
TO BE?



I AM A
DENIZEN OF THE
IMMORTAL PITS OF
CORRUPTED SOULS. SINNERS
RENDERING IN THE INFERNAL
CAULDRONS OF
THE ABYSS.

WHAT IS IT
WITH EVERY ONE
AND THEIR POETIC FUCKING
ANSWERS? SO YOU'RE
FROM HELL?

THAT LABEL IS
ACCEPTABLE. THOUGH
HELL IS HARDLY A DESCRIPTOR
FOR THE HOLE IN WHICH ALL
RELIGIONS SHIT THEIR
WASTED SOULS.

SO YOU ARE
SOME KIND OF
DEMON THEN?

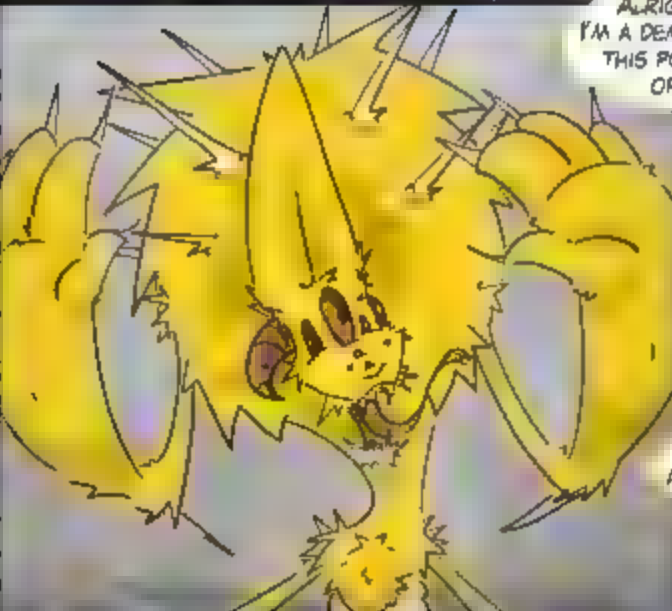
OF A SORT



NO, THAT IS
GIVING TOO MUCH CREDIT
DEMONS SHOULD HAVE POWER
TO SPARE YOU, YOU ARE PROBABLY
SOME DEMONS PERSONAL ASS IMP
OUT TO MAKE SOME HELPLESS
LITTLE GIRLS LIFE
MISERABLE



MAYBE.
PERHAPS I AM
WHAT PEOPLE WANT
ME TO BE.



ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT,
I'M A DEMON POSSESSING
THIS POOR FACSIMILE
OF A RABBIT



WHAT IS
YOUR PURPOSE?

SUNSHINE
AND HAPPINESS.

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT
ANSWER MY QUESTION OR I WILL MAKE
SURE THAT RABBIT DOLL WILL
BE JUST THAT

I INFLUENCE EMOTIONS
IN OTHERS AND FEED OFF
THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS
TO THE HOST

HE-HE-HE-HE,
WHERE ELSE TO GRAB
THE LIGHTNING BUT THE
LIGHTNING ROD

NOTHING BUT A
FUCKING PARASITE. THEN
YOUR HOST...

YOU USED
ALICE...

I WOULDN'T SAY I
USED HER, THE OTHERS
USED HER. I JUST ENHANCED
THEIR MORE PRIMAL
EMOTIONS.

YOU
DISGUST ME

HA-HA
HA-HA-HA-HA
VOILA!

THAT...
THAT WAS FAIRLY
DISCONCERTING, THAT
IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE
HAS HARMED ME.
EVER.

THAT WAS JUST A
SCRATCH, WHEN THE TIME
COMES I WILL SHOW YOU THE EXTENT
OF THIS NEW FEELING OF MINE. FOR NOW
THOUGH I AM GOING TO REMIND A DEMON
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN
THE HURT LOCKER.

SLASH!

THOOOF

FOOOOOOM!

WELL AIN'T THAT
A DAMN SHAME



MORNING MY
LITTLE HONEY BEE.



MORNING KATT
YOU... YOU'RE NOT
MAD ARE YOU?

ABOUT
WHAT HONEY?

ABOUT MR.
FLUFFY PANTS.



NO MY DEAR
HE IS YOUR RABBIT
DOLL.



HE...
HE'S MORE
THAN THAT



I KNOW DEAR,
BUT HE AND I HAD A
TALK LAST NIGHT WE AGREED
HE COULD STAY BUT FROM NOW
ON I'LL BE IN CHARGE OF
PROTECTING YOU.





THANK YOU
KATT.



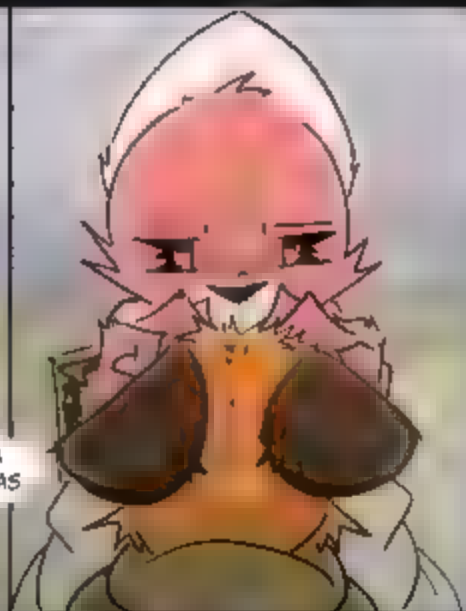
WHAT'S WRONG
ALICE HONEY?

ITCHES?
LET'S TAKE
A LOOK



ITCHES
ALL OVER..

JUST A
FEW FLEAS



FEE'S!
OH NO



SETTLE DOWN
HONEY, I WILL GET
RID OF THEM WHEN WE
GET INTO TOWN. DON'T
AGGRAVATE THEM,
STOP SCRATCHING.

KATT
THEY ITCH.



I KNOW ALICE,
YOU'LL JUST HAVE
TO BE STRONG FOR A
FEW MORE HOURS. I CAN
SMELL THE TOWN UP
AHEAD. IT'S A
BIG ONE.

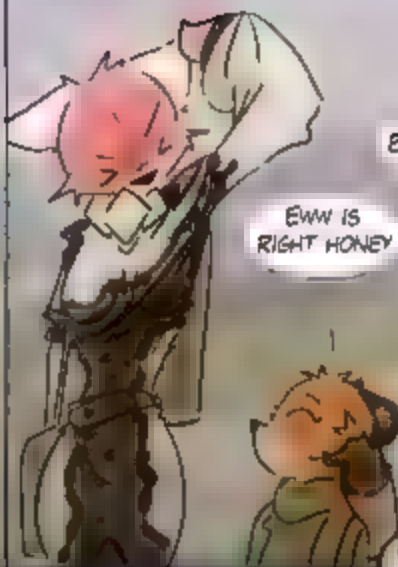
OK KATT

BESIDES WE
BOTH NEED A BATH,
BADLY. WE'RE BEGINNING
TO SMELL LIKE A
PAIR OF SKUNKS.



EWWW.

WWW IS
RIGHT HONEY



KATT?

WHAT IS
IT MONEY?

KATT
MR. FLUFFY PANTS
HAS BEEN VERY QUIET
HE HASN'T SAID NOTHING
FOR A FEW DAYS.

I'M SURE
HE'S JUST TAKING
A BREAK NOW THAT I
AM HERE TO
PROTECT YOU.

KATT..
WILL HE COME
BACK?

YES ALICE
HE WILL BE BACK
SOONER OR
LATER.

OK KATT

IS THAT
THE TOWN
KATT?

YES, LOOKS
LIKE THEY ARE DOING
QUITE WELL FOR THEMSELVES.
THEY EVEN HAVE OUTLYING
HOMES... AND...

SNIFF

A FIELD NEARBY
SEEMS SOME PARTS OF
THE WORLD HAVE STARTED
TO FIND ORDER AGAIN.

IT LOOKS
LIKE A SHINY
RIBBON

DON'T LET
LOOKS FOOL YOU
HONEY. SOMETIMES SHINY
OBJECTS CAN BE THE
MOST DANGEROUS
THINGS.

YES KATT

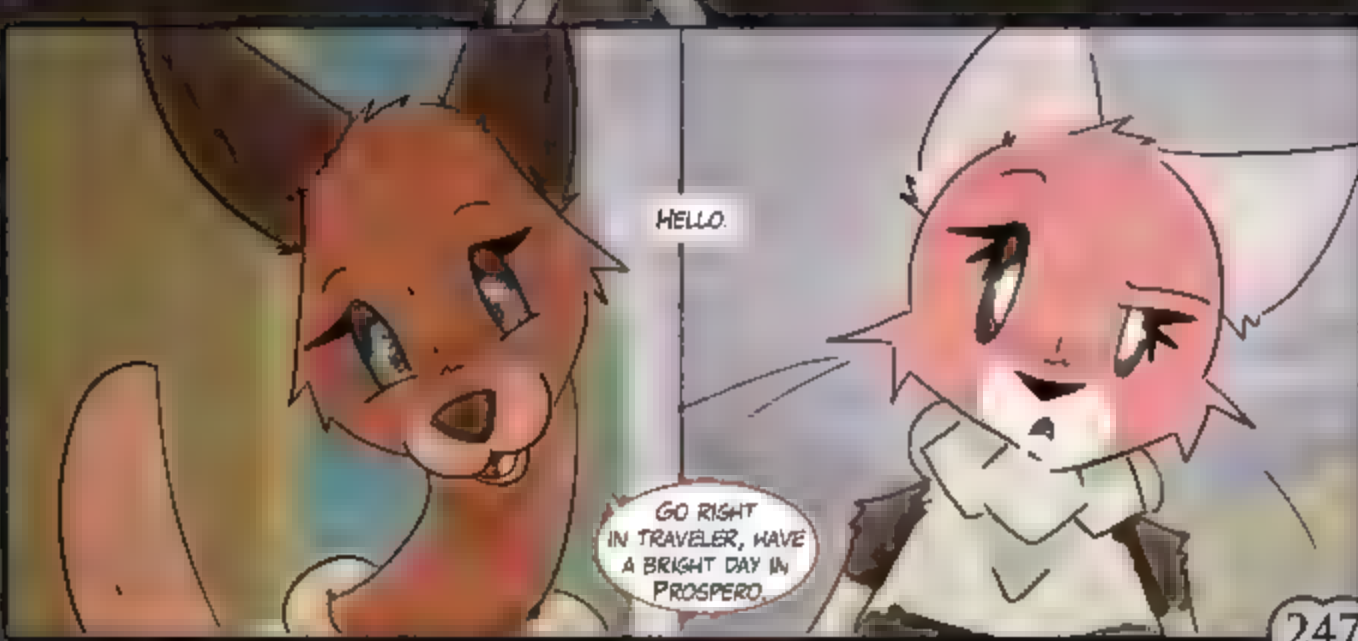
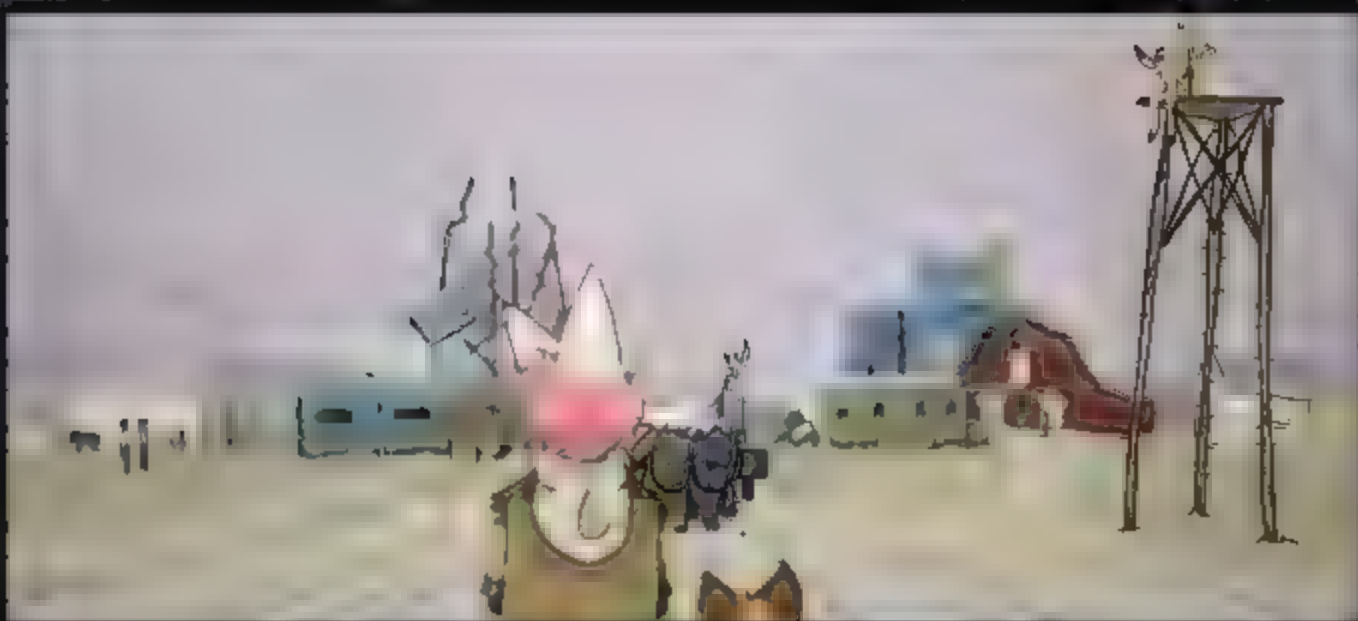
WE SHOULD
BE THERE IN A FEW
HOURS. REMEMBER WHAT
I'VE TAUGHT YOU
WHEN WE ARRIVE.

YES KATT

STICK TO
ME LIKE GLUE AND
NOT A YIP

YES KATT,
QUIET AS A WALL
CRAWLER

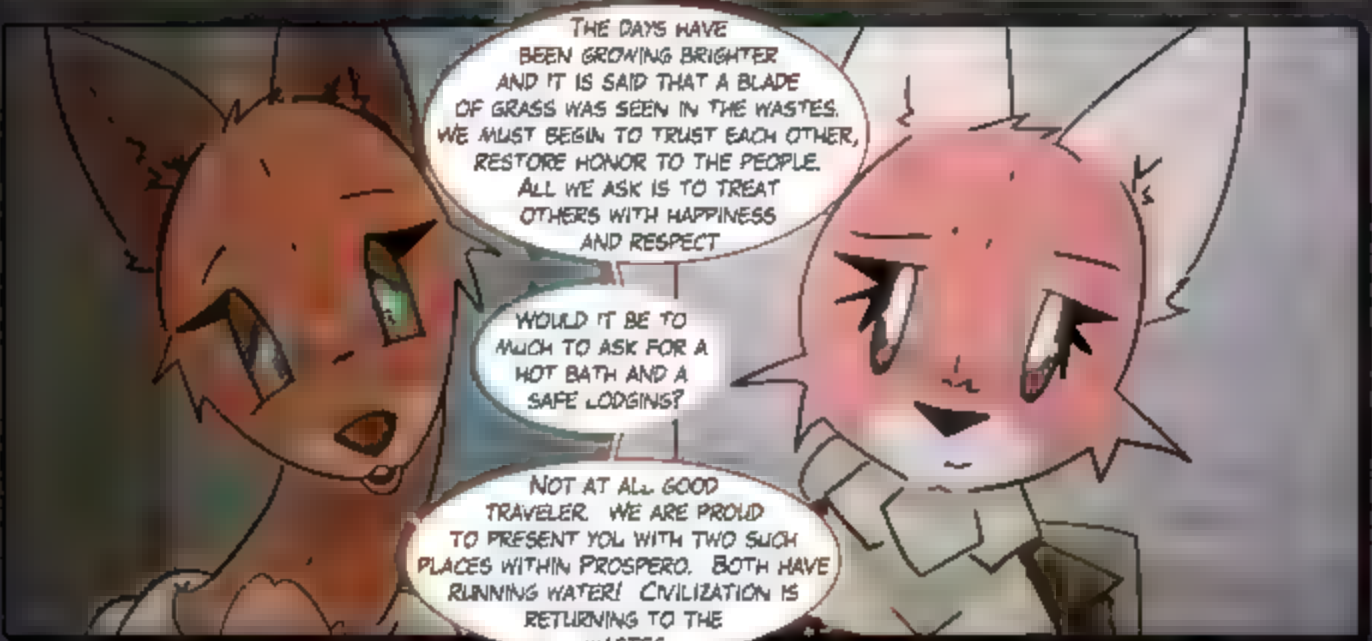
GOOD GIRL.





YOU DON'T
WANT TO KNOW MY
BUSINESS?

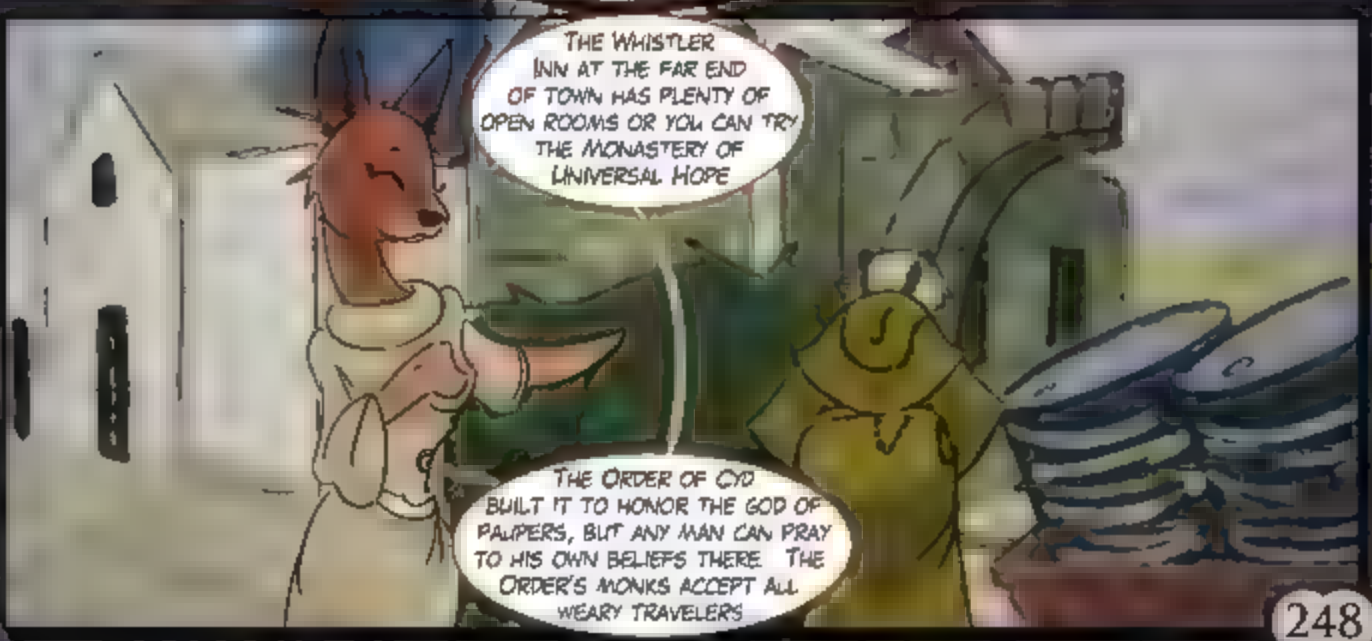
YOUR BUSINESS
IS YOUR OWN. HERE IN
PROSPERO WE ARE TRYING
TO BRING OUT THE
REVOLUTION OF
THE NEW WORLD



THE DAYS HAVE
BEEN GROWING BRIGHTER
AND IT IS SAID THAT A BLADE
OF GRASS WAS SEEN IN THE WASTES.
WE MUST BEGIN TO TRUST EACH OTHER,
RESTORE HONOR TO THE PEOPLE.
ALL WE ASK IS TO TREAT
OTHERS WITH HAPPINESS
AND RESPECT

WOULD IT BE TO
MUCH TO ASK FOR A
HOT BATH AND A
SAFE LODGINGS?

NOT AT ALL. GOOD
TRAVELER. WE ARE PROUD
TO PRESENT YOU WITH TWO SUCH
PLACES WITHIN PROSPERO. BOTH HAVE
RUNNING WATER! CIVILIZATION IS
RETURNING TO THE
WASTES.



THE WHISTLER
INN AT THE FAR END
OF TOWN HAS PLENTY OF
OPEN ROOMS OR YOU CAN TRY
THE MONASTERY OF
UNIVERSAL HOPE

THE ORDER OF CYD
BUILT IT TO HONOR THE GOD OF
PALPERS, BUT ANY MAN CAN PRAY
TO HIS OWN BELIEFS THERE. THE
ORDER'S MONKS ACCEPT ALL
WEARY TRAVELERS



THANK YOU.

THAT IS NOT
NECESSARY GOOD
TRAVELER

GOOD DAY
TO YOL GATE
KEEPER

I SERVE TO
PLEASE AS ONE OF
THE ORDER. TO SERVE IS
ENOUGH, MY DAYS OF
BEGGING AND CHASING
THE COIN ARE
LONG PAST



GOOD DAY
GOOD TRAVELER

FATHER
DO YOU NEED
SOME HELP?



IS THAT
YOUR DADDY
KATT?

NO MY CHILD,
IT IS A TERM OF
RESPECT FOR SOMEONE
OF MY ORDER. I DO HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE FOR MISLEADING
YOU, I AM NOT YET A
PRIEST JUST A
HUMBLE FRIAR



LOOKS LIKE
YOU HAVE THROWN
A WHEEL GOOD
FRIAR

IT SEEMS THE GODS
HAVE LAID A TAX UPON MY
BROW. I HAVE SENT MY ASSISTANT
TO THE MONASTERY AT THE EDGE
OF TOWN TO RETRIEVE A PAIR
OF STRONG BACKS.

NO NEED FRIAR
I THINK I CAN
ASSIST YOU.

NOT TO OFFEND
MY CHILD, BUT THERE
ARE THREE LARGE CASKS OF
PURIFIED WATER WEIGHING DOWN
THE CART. I FEAR IT WOULD
TAKE TWO MEN JUST TO
UNLOAD THEM.

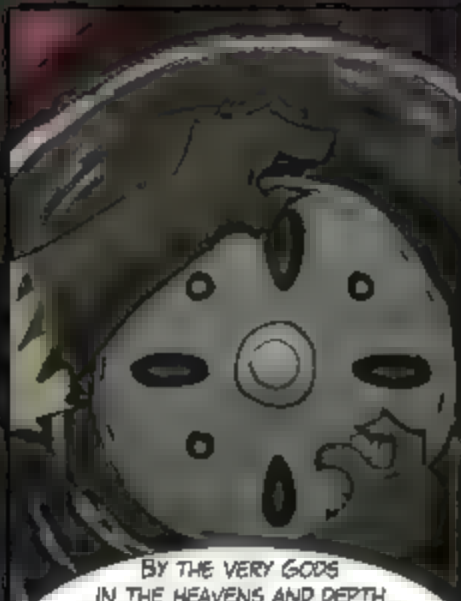


WELL YOU WON'T
FAULT ME FOR GIVING
IT A TRY



ALL THE HELP
YOU CAN OFFER IS A
BLESSING CHILD.





BY THE VERY GODS
IN THE HEAVENS AND DEPTH
OF THE UNIVERSE. I HAVE NEVER
BEFORE SEEN SUCH A FEAT OF STRENGTH.
I WOULD NOT HAVE BELIEVED IT IF
I HAD NEVER SEEN IT WITH
MY OWN EYES.



MAYBE THE TAX
UPON YOUR BROW WAS
A LESSON IN PATIENCE
FOR THE RIGHT PERSON
FOR THE RIGHT JOB



WELL MY DAUGHTERS
IT IS NOT EVERY DAY I AM
HUMBLED. I NEEDED HELP
AND HELP ARRIVED



IT IS MY TURN
TO ASK FOR HELP
FRIAR.

PEKIN,
FRIAR PEKIN.

GOOD FRIAR PEKIN
I AM KATT AND THIS IS
MY CHILD ALICE.



HELLO
SWEETHEART

HELLO
FRIAR PEKIN.

I WAS TOLD
I COULD FIND LODGING
AND A BATH AT THE MONASTERY
WE ARE IN NEED OF A SAFE PLACE
AND GOOD COMPANY.



SAY NO MORE AND
LOOK NO FURTHER. YOU
SHALL BE OUR GUESTS. I TOO
AM A TRAVELER ROAMING THIS LAND
I HAVE SPENT A FEW WEEKS HELPING THIS
TOWN WITH A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.
IT SEEMS UNLIKELY BUT THIS
IS A SURPRISINGLY CIVILIZED
AND SAFE PLACE



THE ABBOT HAS
TAKEN QUITE A SHINE TO
MY HELP HERE. COME LET US
MOVE OUT OF THIS DUSTY
STREET AND INTO A MORE
COMFORTABLE SETTING.

THANK YOU
FRIAR.

TELL US YOUNG
ALICE WHERE DO YOU
COME FROM?

?

NOO

OUT THERE

KATT AND I WALKED
FOREVER MR. FLUFFY PANTS
CAME TOO, BUT HE'S BEEN
QUIET LATELY

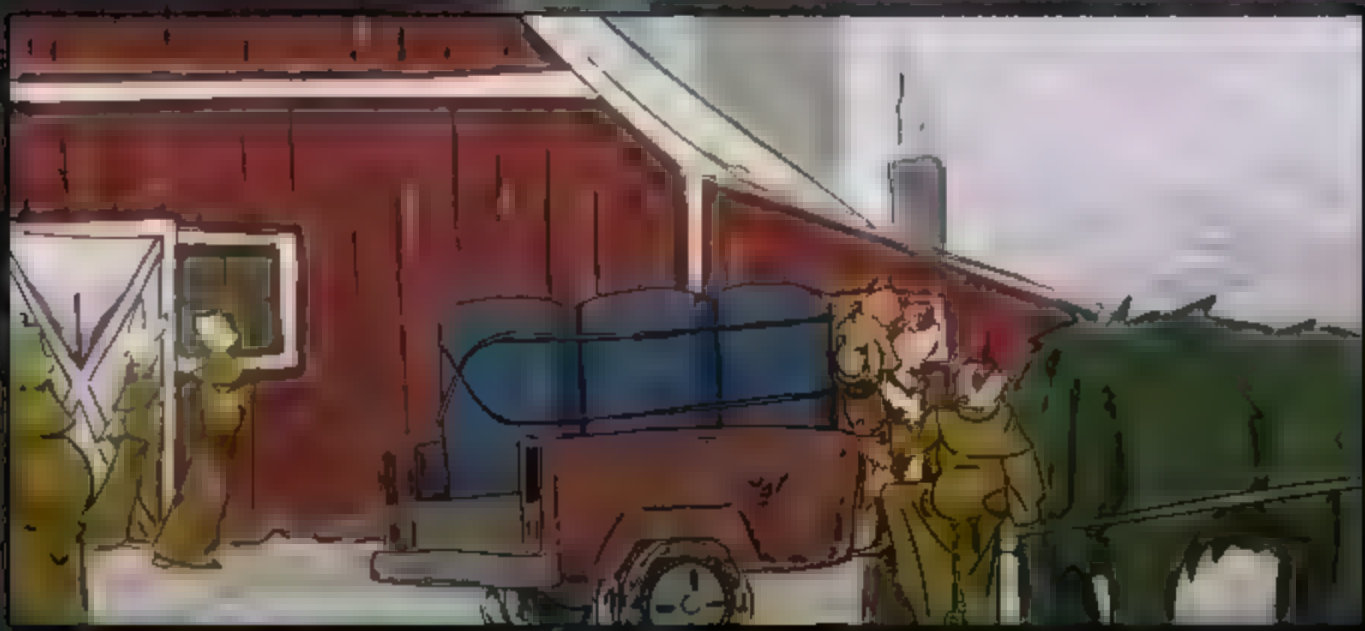
HANDSOME LITTLE
FELLOW. SHAME ABOUT
HIS EYE, SISTER AGATHA OF
RENEWED HOPE, MY HOME,
WOULD HAVE FIXED
HIM UP LIKE NEW

SHE IS AN ARTIST
WITH A NEEDLE. MY FAT
FINGERS ARE LITTLE GOOD FOR
ANYTHING BUT LABOR.

BUT HOME IS FAR,
FAR TO THE NORTH. HOW
DID MR. FLUFFY PANTS COME
TO HAVE SUCH A
GRIEVOUS WOUND?

A WALL CRAWLER
WAS TRYING TO SLURP
HIM ONE NIGHT. I SQUASHED
IT GOOD BUT MR. FLUFFY PANTS
WAS ALREADY HURT HE
COMPLAINS A LOT
ABOUT IT

HAHOHO!
I AM SURE
HE DOES.





A RANK PAIR
OF BEGGARS?



ANTHONY BOWEN
KURTSMITH! OUTWARD
APPEARANCES MEAN VERY LITTLE
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE
LESSONS OF THE ORDER?



SORRY FRIAR
PEKIN, I DID NOT
MEAN TO OFFEND.
ACCEPT MY
APOLOGIES.



DON'T APOLOGIZE
TO ME, THE TWO LOVELY
LADIES NEED THEIR
FEELING MENDED.

I AM SORRY IF
I HAVE CAUSED YOU
DISTRESS LADIES.



SUCH WELL
MANNERED LADS.
YOU KEEP A TIGHT
SHIP FRIAR.

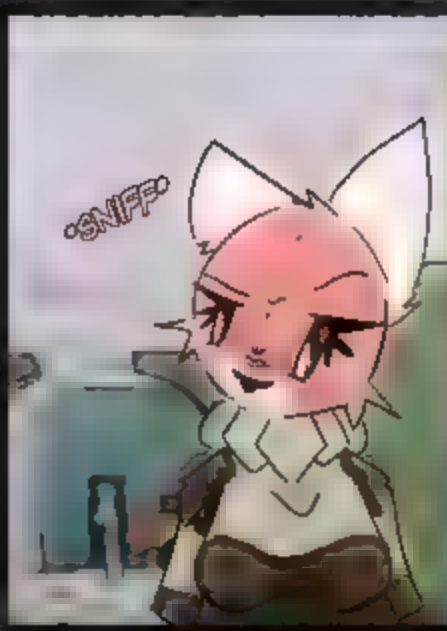


AI, BUT BY GOD'S
TEETH TEACHING THEM
HUMILITY MAY FRUSTRATE
THE VERY LIFE
OUT OF ME



ANTHONY TAKE
THE DELIVERY AROUND
THE BACK AND THEN FETCH OUT
GUESTS SOME FRESH BREAD AND
DRINK. HAVE IT BROUGHT
TO THE NUNS WING.







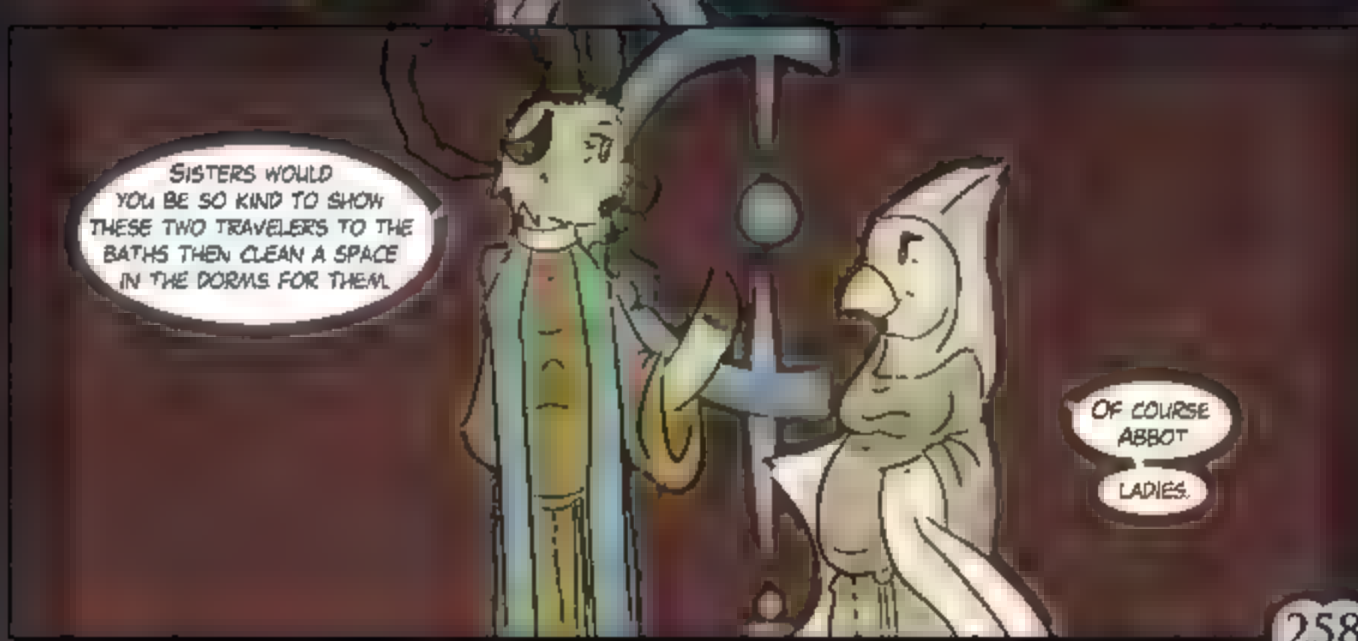
ABBOT MAURICE,
THIS IS KATT AND HER
CHILD ALICE. TWO WEARY
TRAVELERS LOOKING
FOR SANCTUARY.



VERY GOOD TO
MEET YOU MY CHILDREN.
WHAT IS OURS IS YOURS MAY
YOUR BELIEFS SHINE
BRIGHTLY UPON YOU.

NOT TO BE NEEDY
RIGHT OFF THE BAT BUT
I WOULDN'T SUPPOSE IF WOULD
BE TOO MUCH TO ASK
FOR A HOT BATH?

NOT AT ALL,
THE NUNS OF OUR
ORDER HAVE A WONDERFUL
PRIVATE BATH.



SISTERS WOULD
YOU BE SO KIND TO SHOW
THESE TWO TRAVELERS TO THE
BATHS THEN CLEAN A SPACE
IN THE DORMS FOR THEM.

OF COURSE
ABBOT
LADIES.

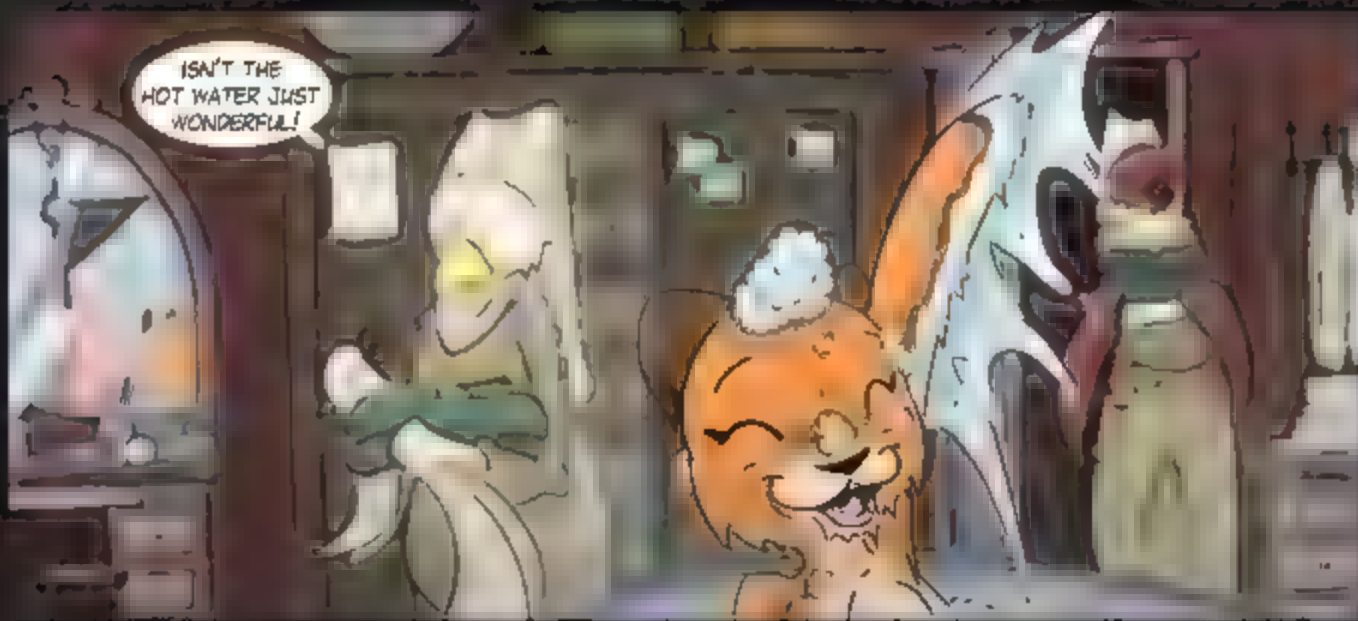
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HOSPITALITY ABBOT
PRIAR PEKIN, I WILL TALK
TO YOU LATER
I HOPE?



I LOOK
FORWARD
TO IT



ISN'T THE
HOT WATER JUST
WONDERFUL!



I DON'T
WANT TO GET
OUT EVER



BEFORE WE JUST
HAD A WARM TUB THAT YOU
NEEDED TO POUR HOT WATER IN.
BUT THE FIRST THING FRIAR PEKIN DID
WHEN HE CAME WAS SHOW US HOW TO
MAKE SPECIAL BRICKS OUT OF ASH
AND CLAY. THEY LET YOU LIGHT
A FIRE UNDER THE TUB.

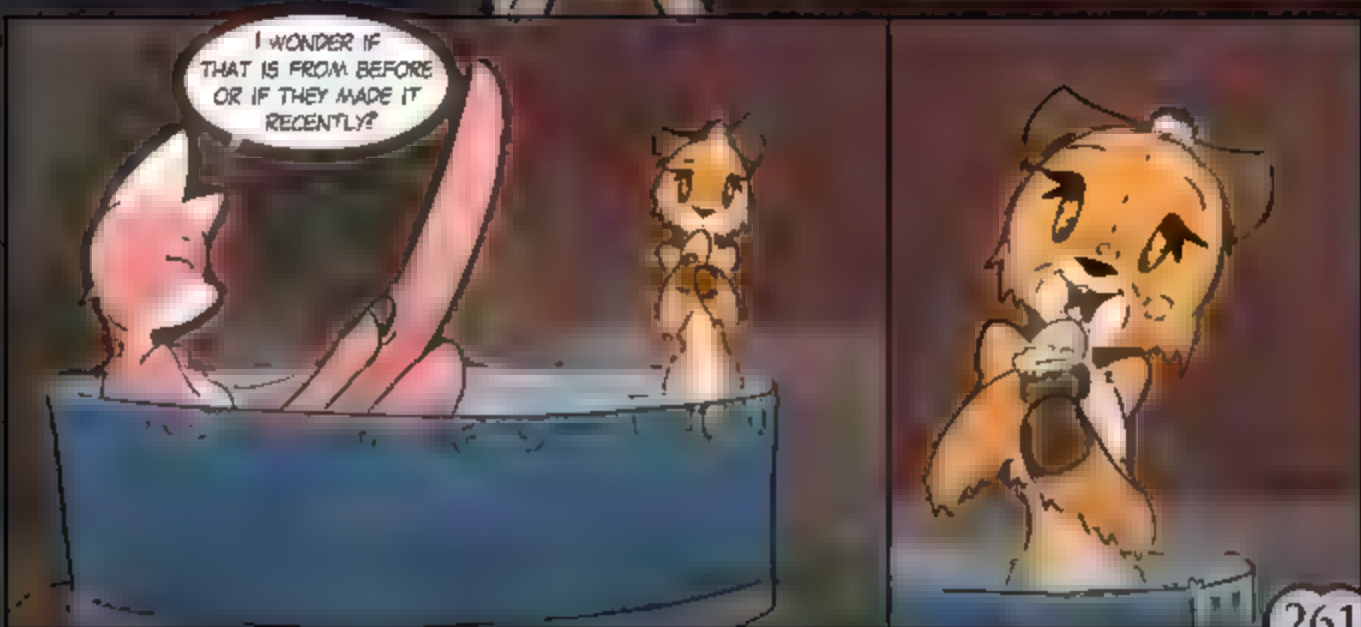
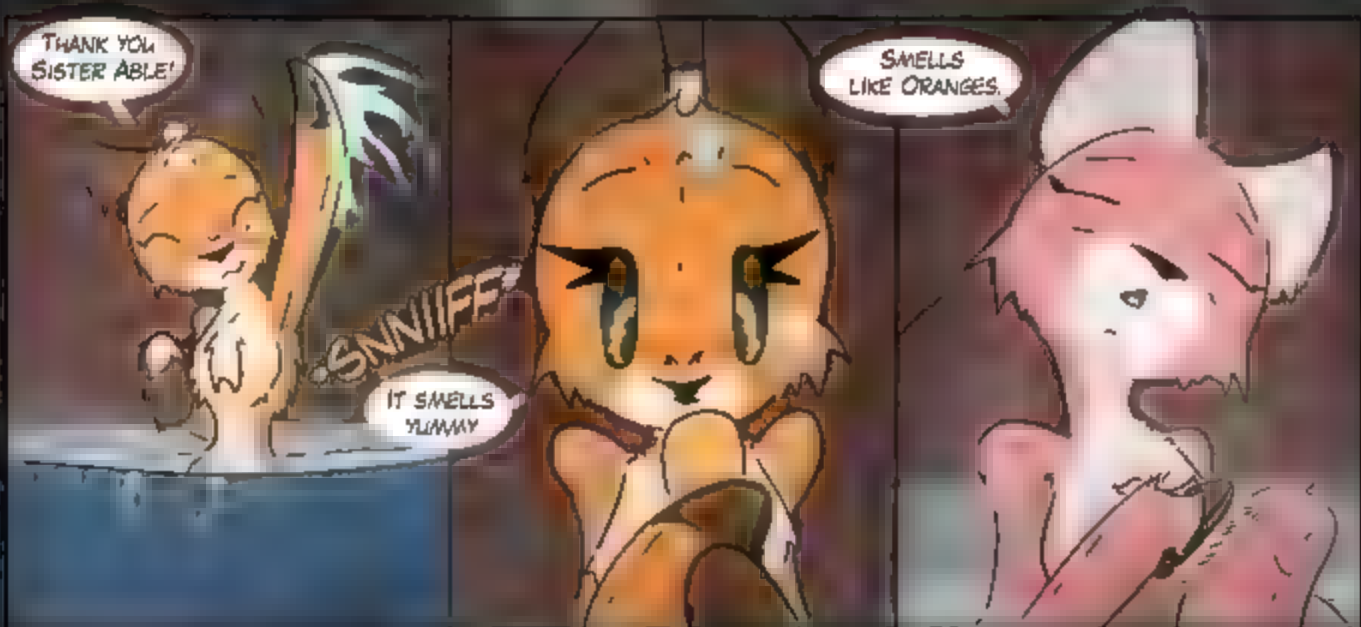


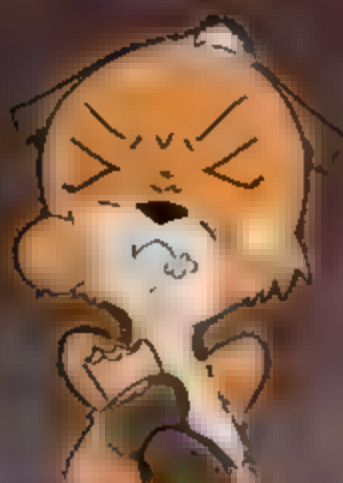
REALLY?
THERE'S FIRE
UNDER US!



THERE ARE FRESH
TOWELS, SCISSORS, A FEW
BRUSHES AND A THIRD BAR OF
SOAP AS REQUESTED.





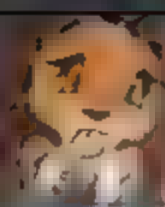


BLEH!
IT TASTES
LIKE SOAP
TO ME



HAHAHEHE

LET'S GET YOU
SCRUBBED AND TRIMMED.
I THINK WE HAVE DROWNED ALL
THE FLEAS AND THIS LAST BAR
OF SOAP SHOULD FINISH
THE JOB.



ANTHONY WAS
RIGHT WE'RE BEGINNING
TO LOOK LIKE A PAIR
OF BEGGARS.



DID YOU
GET HURT?

HHMM?



ON YOUR
NECK.



Y-YOU TOP?

HMM?

YOUR NECK.

NO HONEY,
I DID THAT

WHY? WERE
YOU MAD AT
YOURSELF?

MEH.
NO. I HAD TO
REMOVE SOMETHING
THAT COULD NOT BE
WASHED AWAY

THE OLD BIRD
AT M... AT WHERE YOU
SAVED ME, HAD INK ON HER
LEG THAT WOULD NOT GO
AWAY IT WAS A BUNCH
OF NUMBERS.

A SERIAL
NUMBER.

SERIAL
NUMBER?

I'LL TELL YOU
A SECRET, BUT YOU
HAVE TO PROMISE
NOT TO TEL.

I WON'T TEL,
I PROMISE

IT'S IN THE SAME
PLACE AS THE OLD BIRD.
K.A.T.T 121318121105.
IS THAT A SERIAL
NUMBER?

Yes.

DO I
HAVE A SERIAL
NUMBER?

NO HONEY

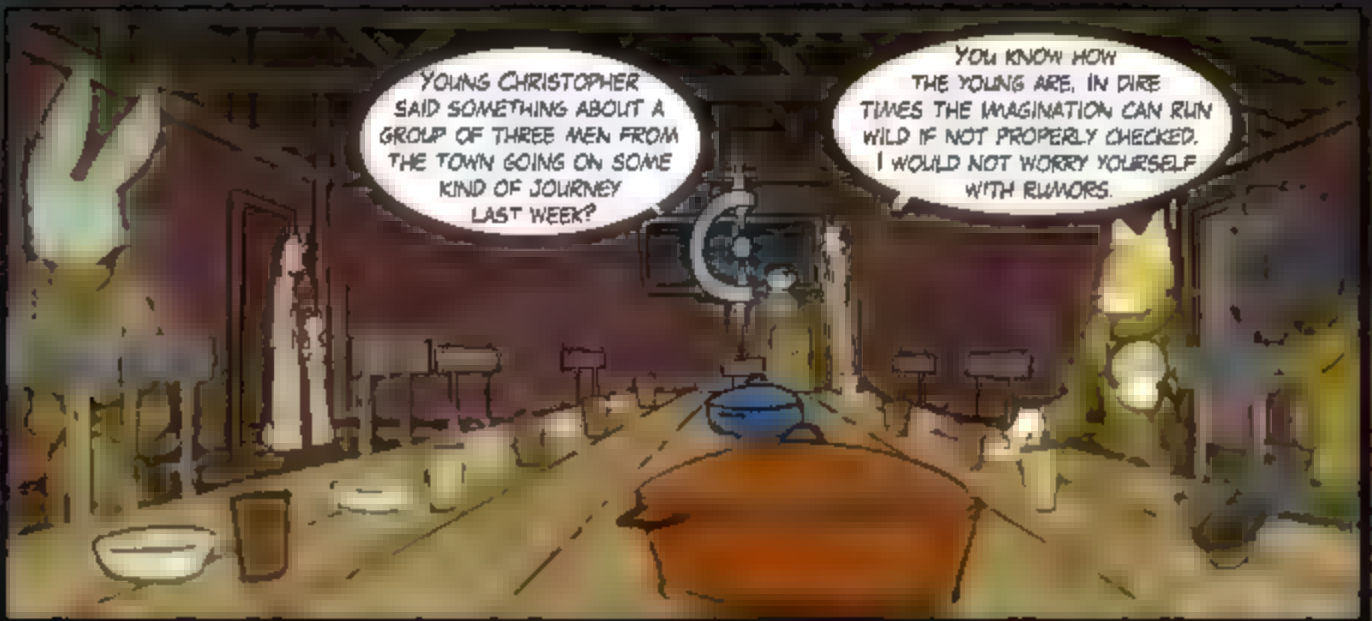
WHAT'S
IT FOR?

IT'S LIKE A
NAME BUT WITH
NUMBERS SO YOU
CAN BE...
IDENTIFIED.

Oh...

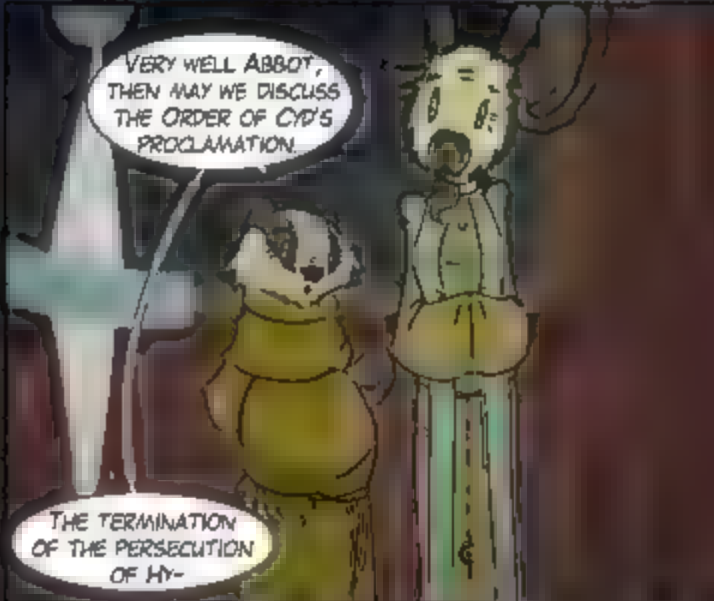
BY WHO?

NO ONE
ANYMORE.



YOUNG CHRISTOPHER
SAID SOMETHING ABOUT A
GROUP OF THREE MEN FROM
THE TOWN GOING ON SOME
KIND OF JOURNEY
LAST WEEK?

YOU KNOW HOW
THE YOUNG ARE, IN DIRE
TIMES THE IMAGINATION CAN RUN
WILD IF NOT PROPERLY CHECKED.
I WOULD NOT WORRY YOURSELF
WITH RUMORS.



VERY WELL ABBOT,
THEN MAY WE DISCUSS
THE ORDER OF CVD'S
PROCLAMATION.

THE TERMINATION
OF THE PERSECUTION
OF HY-



WE THOUGHT
YOU WERE JUST A
PAIR OF WANDERING
MIRACLE WORKERS BEFORE,
BUT NOW IT IS REVEALED
TO US THAT THERE ARE
TWO ANGELS IN OUR
MIDST



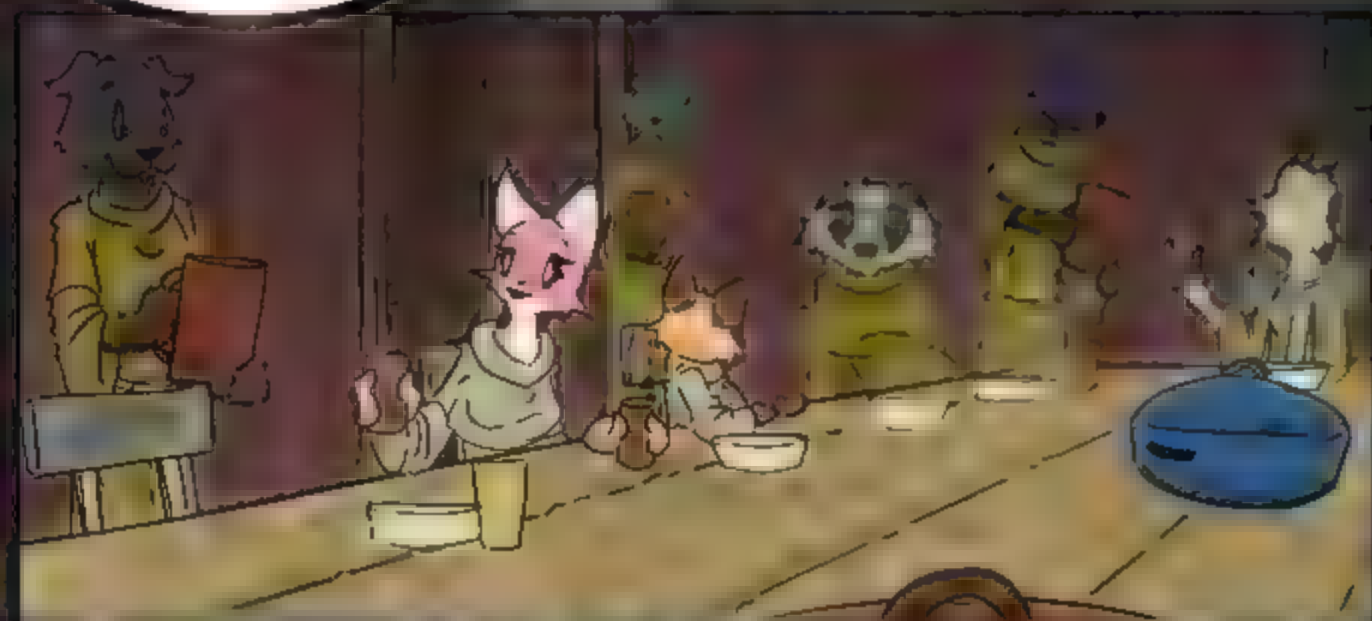
•SNIFF•
•SNIFF•

IF I DIDN'T
KNOW ANY BETTER
FRIAR I WOULD SAY UNDER
ALL THAT HOLINESS IS A
SILVER TONGUED
DEVIL.

WE ALL HAVE
OUR DEVILS

WE ARE DELIGHTED
THAT YOU COULD JOIN US
KATT THE FRIAR EXPLAINED
HOW YOU LENT A HELPING HAND
YOU ARE TRULY BLESSED
MY CHILD

WELL THE TALLY
IS STILL OUT ON THAT,
BUT I KNOW WHEN A GOOD MAN
IS IN NEED OF HELP



IT'S CLEAR.

SNIFF

IT HAS BEEN
A WHILE...

YOU HELPED
GET IT HERE, THE
LEAST WE COULD DO
WAS SHARE IT
WITH YOU.

TONIGHT HAS SEEN
MANY WONDROUS THINGS
AND HAS BROUGHT US MANY
NEW FRIENDS. I WOULD LIKE TO
TAKE A MOMENT AND ALL THE
RELIGIOUS HEADS TO GIVE THEIR
PRAYERS OF THANKS TO
THEIR B...

LET US GIVE
THANKS TO ESUS THE
ONE AND ONLY GOD-

LET THE FATHER
BARTU AND MOTHER EPSI
HEAR OUT PRAYERS-

WHAT ARE
THEY DOING?

PRAYING

PRAYING?

THE UNIVERSE
GIVES AND WE BOW OUR
HEADS IN THANKS-

THANK THE
CREATOR AND HIS
WISDOM -

THEY ARE THANKING
THEIR GOD OR GODS FOR
THE FOOD.

WHO'S GOD?

"SNERK!"

WE GIVE THANKS
TO ALL THE SPIRITS

I'LL TELL
YOU LATER MY
CHILD.

BLESS THE BELIEVERS
BLESS THE FAITHFUL

WHAT IS
ALL THIS?

THE ORDER
OF CYD

I WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE
OUR THANKS WITH A FEW SPECIAL
PEOPLE. FRIAR PEKIN OUR BROTHER
FROM THE ORDER OF CYD IS WELL KNOWN
TO YOU ALL. HIS INVALLABLE HELP AROUND
THE COMMUNITY HAS BEEN AN ANSWER TO
OUR PRAYERS. TONIGHT WE ENJOY CLEAR,
HEALTHY, LIFE BRINGING, PURIFIED WATER
THANKS TO THE GOOD FRIAR AND HIS
FILTRATION SYSTEM.

HE HAS ALSO OFFERED
TO TEACH ANY MAN THAT WILL
LISTEN HOW TO BUILD HIS OWN WITH
SIMPLE MATERIALS. IT IS TRULY A GREAT
DAY AND AS IF TO SHOW US THAT THERE
IS A GREATER HAND AT WORK WE
HAVE TWO VISITORS.

WITHOUT THEIR HELP WE MAY
NEVER HAVE RECEIVED THIS WATER
FOR THE DINNER TONIGHT. WE WELCOME
KATT AND HER DAUGHTER ALICE. WE
GIVE THANKS TO OUR FAITHS AND
SEE THE SIGNS IT PRESENTS US.

THE POTATOES IN
THE STEW ARE FROM
THE ABBOTS PERSONAL
GARDEN OUT BACK.

DO NOT LET HIM
FOOL YOU INTO THINKING
I AM SOME KIND OF MIRACLE
WORKER. MORE LIKE
CYD'S HANDYMAN.

WELL I WOULD NOT
HAVE SAID MIRACLE WORKER,
MAYBE A MAN THAT KNOWS
HOW TO USE A BIT OF
SAND AND CHARCOAL.

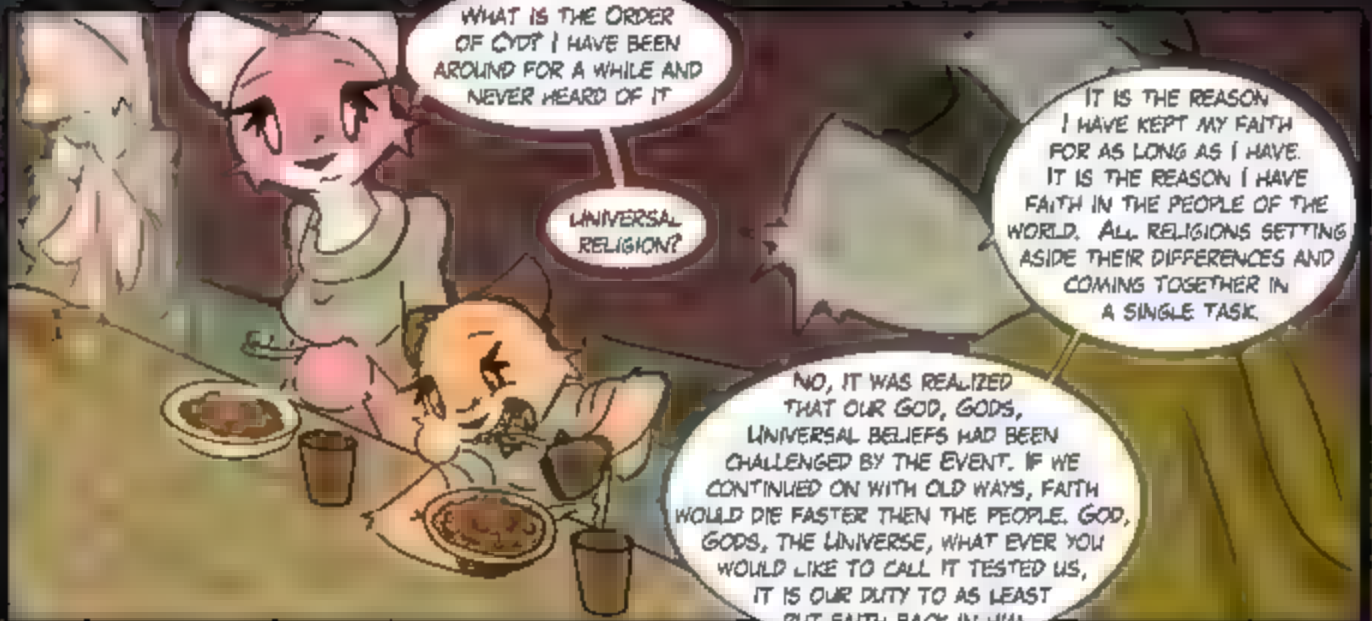
YOU KNOW HOW
REFRESHING IT IS TO
HEAR THAT? IT SEEMS THE
WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN THE
SIMPLE SKILLS OF LIFE. HOW
TO PLANT A FIELD, HOW TO
CHANGE A WHEEL, HOW TO
SEW ON A BUTTON, HOW
TO MAKE A FILTER.

OR HOW TO
MAKE A FIRE.

LUCKILY THEY
ALL HAVE A SECOND
CHANCE TO STOCK UP
ON SOME COMMON
SENSE.

OR HOW TO
MAKE ONES OWN
COMPASS.

LITTLE BY
LITTLE THE WORLD
WILL BE REBUILT.



WHAT IS THE ORDER
OF CYD? I HAVE BEEN
AROUND FOR A WHILE AND
NEVER HEARD OF IT

UNIVERSAL
RELIGION?

IT IS THE REASON
I HAVE KEPT MY FAITH
FOR AS LONG AS I HAVE.
IT IS THE REASON I HAVE
FAITH IN THE PEOPLE OF THE
WORLD. ALL RELIGIONS SETTING
ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND
COMING TOGETHER IN
A SINGLE TASK.

NO, IT WAS REALIZED
THAT OUR GOD, GODS,
UNIVERSAL BELIEFS HAD BEEN
CHALLENGED BY THE EVENT. IF WE
CONTINUED ON WITH OLD WAYS, FAITH
WOULD DIE FASTER THEN THE PEOPLE. GOD,
GODS, THE UNIVERSE, WHAT EVER YOU
WOULD LIKE TO CALL IT TESTED US,
IT IS OUR DUTY TO AS LEAST
PUT FAITH BACK IN HIM.



YOU SOME KIND
OF MISSIONARY COME
TO SPREAD THE GOOD WORD
TO THE NATIVES?



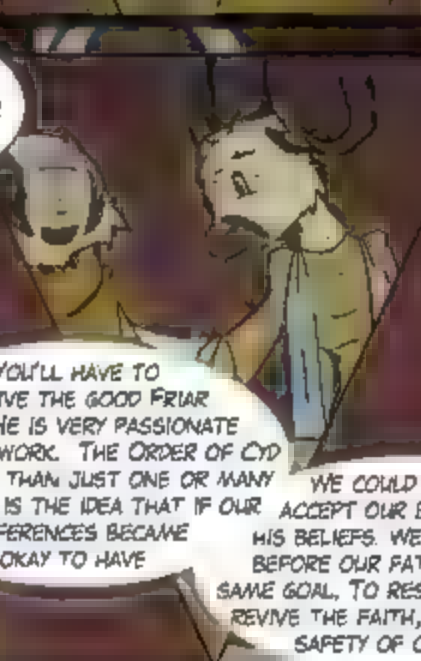
NO, NOTHING LIKE
THAT WE DO NOT ASK
THEM TO BELIEVE, WE HAVE
NO CONVERSION RITUALS.
THE ORDER IS HERE TO
HELP REBUILD OUR
CIVILIZATION.



WHOSE GRAND PLAN
GETS STUCK IN THE SHADOW
OF GOOD INTENTIONS?



YOU WOUND ME, THE
ORDER IS NOT LIKE THAT. THERE ARE
NO TAXES TO THE PEOPLE. THE ORDERS
SKILLS ARE FREE OF CHARGE. OUR ORDER
PRAYS TO CYD THE PATRON SAINT OF
BROTHERHOOD IN THE GREAT CIRCLE
PANTHEON.



YOU'LL HAVE TO
FORGIVE THE GOOD FRIAR
PEKIN. HE IS VERY PASSIONATE
ABOUT OUR WORK. THE ORDER OF CYD
IS GREATER THAN JUST ONE OR MANY
GODS. IT IS THE IDEA THAT IF OUR
DIFFERENCES BECAME
OKAY TO HAVE



WE COULD LEARN TO
ACCEPT OUR BROTHER AND
HIS BELIEFS. WE ARE BROTHERS
BEFORE OUR FATHERS WITH THE
SAME GOAL, TO RESTORE THE PLANET,
REVIVE THE FAITH, AND ENSURE THE
SAFETY OF OUR SPECIES.

NOBLE
INTENTIONS

TO BECOME A 'FATHER' OF THE ORDER, A FRIAR MUST GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND HELP HIS FELLOW MAN. HE MUST WORK TO HELP AND NEVER ASK FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN.

THE FRIARS MUST CHANGE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER WHEREVER THEY GO. WHEN THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAVE FULFILLED THEIR MISSION THEY CAN RETURN AND BECOME A FATHER OF THE ORDER.

SOME GO A YEAR, MAYBE THREE. THEY BECOME A FATHER AND SERVE UNDER AN ABBOT AS THE HEAD OF A CHURCH FOR A SPAN OF YEARS UNTIL THEY FIND THEMSELVES ABBOTS MANAGING THEIR OWN FLOCK.



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AWAY DOING GOOD DEEDS FRIAR PEKIN?

EIGHT YEARS, TEN MONTHS, AND TWENTY DAYS.

HOW MANY HAVE YOU HELPED?

I WOULD SAY COUNTLESS, BUT I REMEMBER EVERY PLEA FOR HELP, EVERY GRATEFUL FACE, EVERY HEARTBREAK. THEY THINK I HELP THEM, BUT IT IS THEY WHOM HELPED ME. I HAVE GROWN IN WISDOM FROM MY SUCCESS AND FAILURES. WHAT TRULY HUMBLER ME IS WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.

YOU DON'T WANT YOUR OWN LITTLE HOUSE OF CYD?

SHLOP
SHLOP



I WOULD GLADLY
STAY A FRIAR TRAVELING
THE LAND HELPING CIVILIZATION
BACK TO ITS FEET FOR THE REST
OF MY DAYS IF CYD NEEDS



WHAT'S
STOPPING YOU?



ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING



MR FLUFFY PANTS
YOU THERE?



I HOPE HE IS NOT
MAD AT ME FOR FOLLOWING
KATT I NEED HER, SHE SAVED
ME SHE CAN SAVE ME.



MR. FLUFFY PANTS
NEEDS A BATH, STARTING TO
SMELL LIKE BURNED FUR.



YES MA'AM.



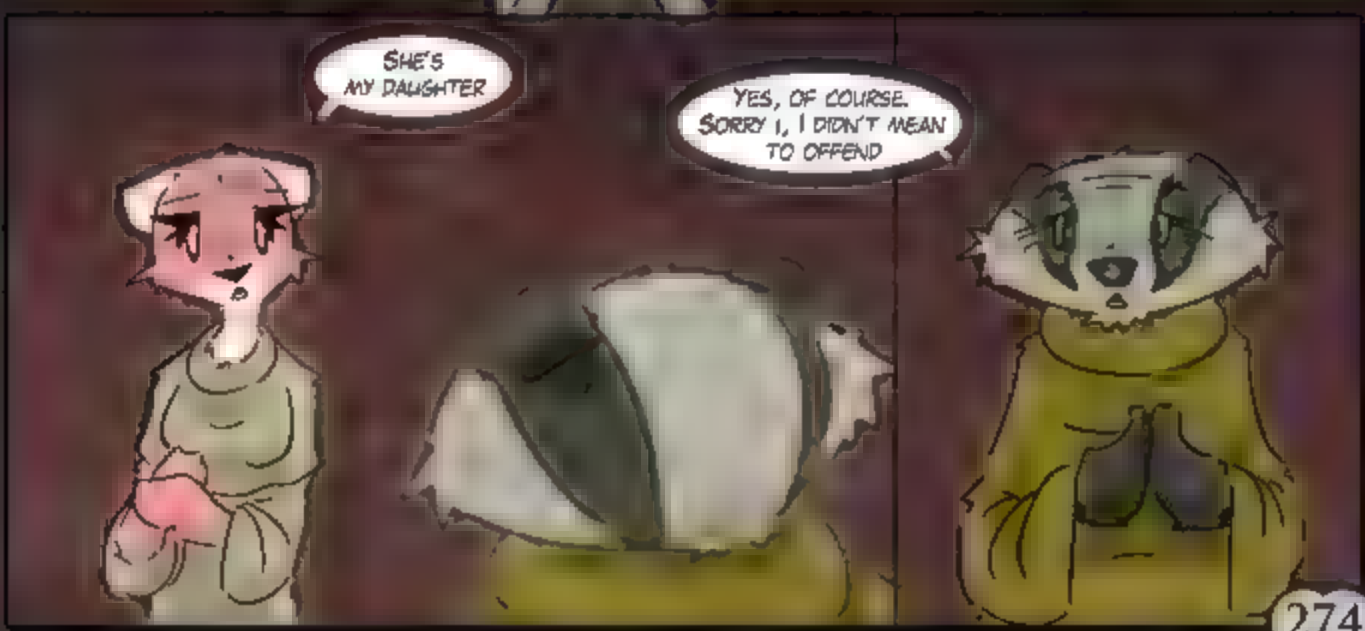
YOU TWO ARE
VERY CLOSE

SHE'S...



SHE'S
MY DAUGHTER

YES, OF COURSE.
SORRY I, I DIDN'T MEAN
TO OFFEND



I... NO,
I'M SORRY, JUST
BEEN A LONG ROAD

PERHAPS YOU DO
NEED SOME SLEEP?

HEHE, NO,
I DON'T SLEEP

I SHALL TAKE
MY LEAVE AND FALL
VICTIM TO THAT TRUEST
OF ASSASSINS, SLEEP
BROTHER PEKIN.

SISTER KATT,
BLESS YOU AND LITTLE
ALICE. MAY YOU FIND
YOUR STAY RESTFUL

THANK YOU.
MY WORD ON MY LIFE
I OWE YOU A FAVOR

GOOD FOOD,
GOOD COMPANY,
GOOD DAY THIS IS
WHAT MAKES MY FAITH
WORTH EVERY
MOMENT

WHAT DO YOU
BELIEVE IN KATT?



OH FRIAR WE
DON'T WANT TO
GO THERE.



TRY ME KATT



I KNOW THERE
IS A HEAVEN, NOT
BECAUSE I HAVE FAITH
IN A GOD OR GODS. HEAVEN
HAS TO EXIST BECAUSE IT IS A
BY-PRODUCT OF MY CORE
BELIEF I BELIEVE
IN HELL.



I NEED THERE TO
BE A HELL. A PLACE
WHERE THE WICKED GO
TO BE PUNISHED



THAT IS FAIRLY
DARK KATT WHAT PURPOSE
WOULD YOUR LIFE
THEN SERVE?



FRIAR I HAVE DONE
MANY HORRIBLE THINGS IN
MY TIME. I AM NOT LOOKING
FOR FORGIVENESS, I NEITHER
WANT NOR DESERVE IT
I AM LOOKING FOR
DAMNATION.



WHY WOULD
YOU SAY ?



I WILL BE DAMNED,
AND ONCE IN HELL I WILL
PUNISH THEM ALL A SECOND
AND VERY FINAL TIME.

WHY SO MUCH
HATRED FOR YOURSELF
KATT? WHY THIS NEED
TO PUNISH?



I GOT HER KILLED!

I SHOULD HAVE
PAID MORE ATTENTION
TO HER -I SHOULD HAVE BEEN
MORE KIND. I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN HER FRIEND.



I SHOULD HAVE
NEVER LET HER COME.

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO TELL ME
ABOUT IT?

HER NAME
WAS SALLY







AND THAT IS WHEN
I RESCUED ALICE A SHORT
TRIP AND HERE WE ARE



AND NOW I'M
REGRETTING LETTING
MY MOUTH RUN



KATT MY CHILD,
I WILL NOT RETELL YOUR
CONFESSION, IT IS AGAINST MY
OATH NOT ONLY AS A MEMBER OF
THE ORDER BUT AS MY OATH
OF BEING A MAN.

I- I JUST NEED A
MOMENT TO PROCESS
ALL OF THAT IF I HAD NOT
WITNESSED YOUR FEAT OF STRENGTH
I MAY HAVE BEEN LESS INCLINED
TO BELIEVE MOST PARTS OF
YOUR STORY

BUT... I KNOW...
I KNOW THEM TO BE
TRUE. YOU DO NOT LIE.
BUT FOR ALL THAT TO BE
TRUE, YOU...

I WOULD
HAVE TO BE.



SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU... YOU'RE NOT... YOU
ARE NOT ACTUALLY AN ANGEL
ARE YOU? OR A...
DEMON?



NO,
JUST,
SOMETHING
ELSE.



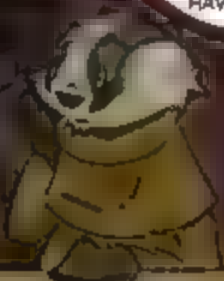
WHY ARE YOU
PUNISHING YOURSELF
FOR SALLY'S DEATH?



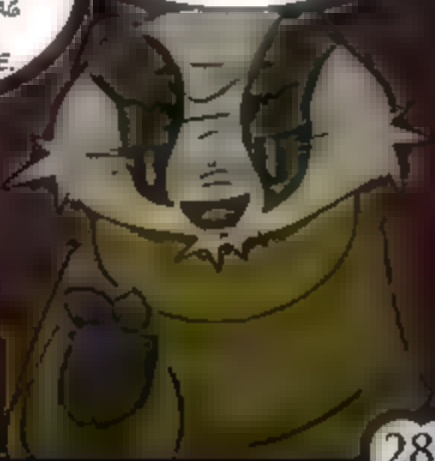
WHATT?



YOUR VENGEFUL
FEELINGS ASIDE, SLAVERS
ARE SLAVERS. THEY DON'T CARE
WHO YOU ARE AS LONG AS YOU ARE
BREATHING. YOU PROTECTED
HER, YOU TRIED TO
SAVE HER



SHE WASN'T THE
FIRST TO DIE UNDER MY
WATCH BUT SHE WAS THE
YOUNGEST I SHOULD HAVE
NEVER LET HER TAG
ALONG. I COULD
HAVE DONE MORE.



YOU CAN DO
MORE. YOU FINALLY
LET SOMEONE THROUGH THAT
ARMOR AROUND YOUR HEART
THAT IS WHY IT HURTS
SO MUCH.

NOW IT IS HAPPENING
AGAIN AND YOU ARE WORRIED
IF YOU ALLOW ANOTHER TO COME
THROUGH THAT ARMOR YOU WILL
LOSE ANOTHER SOUL

WE CAN
KEEP IT

YOU'RE GOING

I COULDN'T
JUST LEAVE HER.

YOU DID THE
RIGHT THING.

BUT WHAT IF
I GET ALICE HURT?
MY DESTINATION IS MADE
OF PERIL. WHAT IF I LET HER
DOWN AND DIE LEAVING
HER ALONE?

HAVE YOU SEE
THE WAY THAT CHILD
LOOKS AT YOU. I HAVE SEEN
NO TRUER LOOKS FROM A
CHILD TO A MOTHER.

YES BUT...

I AM SURE YOU
WILL PROTECT HER
UNTIL YOUR VERY LAST
BREATH, SHOULD IT NEVER
COME TO THAT. THESE ARE
UNPREDICTABLE AND GRAVE
TIMES. YOU WILL NOT
LET HER DOWN.

I DO NOT
KNOW HOW YOU
PULLED ALL THAT
OUT OF ME.

ARE YOU SURE
YOU'RE NOT A SILVER
TONGUED DEVIL.



THE ORDER OF CYD
ARE WELL RENOWN FOR
THEIR CONFESSIONS.

WHY? DOES
EVERY CONFESSION COME
WITH A COOKIE?

NOT ALL OF
THEM, ONLY THE TRULY
SPECIAL ONES.

YOU COME ACROSS
A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS
WANDERING THE WASTES.



I



ALL CONFESSIOANAL
TREATS MUST BE SHARE
WITH CHILDREN.

KATT YOU DO
NOT DESERVE TO BE
DAMNED.

THAT MAN AND HIM
ALONE CAUSED SALLY'S DEATH.
SHE FORGAVE YOU.

AN EVIL SOUL
WOULD HAVE LEFT
LITTLE ALICE ALONE IN THE
DARK. YOU HAVE A RESTLESS
SOUL, IT FEELS BOUND
AND CORNERED, RAGING
LIKE A STORM.

BUT YOU
CANNOT FORGET THE
SUNSHINE KATT

GO WITH
PEACE CHILD



THANK YOU.





WHO IS THIS
GORGEOUS LITTLE GIRL?
WHAT DID SHE DO WITH MY
FLEA BITTEN ALICE.



KAAAAATTTT



HOW ARE
YOU FEELING? YOUR
ITCHING STOP?

NO MORE
ITCHES.

WE'RE SOFT

LIKE LITTLE
CLOUDS



WE SMELL
PRETTY

VERY PRETTY

I LIKE BATHES
AND BRUSHES



THEY DO MAKE
LIFE A LITTLE MORE
BEARABLE

I THINK IF ALL
THE BAD MEN HAD BEEN
SCRUBBED AND COMBED
THEY WOULD NOT BE
SO CRANKY

HEHE,
MAYBE SO.

TELL YOU
A SECRET



BEFORE THE GREEN
WAS GONE, EVERYONE HAD
THEIR OWN BATH AND A
ROOM TO KEEP IT



EVEN THOUGH THEY
ARE SCARCE NOW I PREDICT
IN TEN YEARS EVERYONE WILL
ONCE AGAIN HAVE BATHS.



I CAN HAVE
MY OWN BATH!?

YOUR OWN BATH,
COMBS, BRUSHES, SMELL
SOAPS, AND A GREAT BIG
FLUFFY TOWEL



WHEN EVERYONE
HAS BATHS AGAIN WILL
THE WORLD GET A
BATH TOO?



YOU DO ASK THE TOUGH ONES. WHEN EVERYONE HAS HAD A BATH IT WILL BE TIME TO GET DIRTY AGAIN CLEANING THE WORLD. IT IS OUR MESS.



AND WE CLEAN UP OUR OWN MESSES. THAT IS WHAT THE OLD BENT BIRD TOLD ME.



WISE BIRD AND WISER LITTLE GIRL FOR REMEMBERING IT COME, I TOLD FRIAR PEKIN WE WOULD MEET HIM FOR LUNCH AND THEN TAKE A WALK.

WE CAN GO FOR A WALK?

YOU KNOW FOR SOMEONE THAT HAS JUST MARCHED ACROSS THE WASTES FOR A WEEK YOU ARE PRETTY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT A WALK.

I LOVE WALKING. I LOVED WALKING WITH YOU OUT THERE. THERE IS SOOO MUCH ROOM AND AIR I JUST WANT TO WALK FOREVER

AND THEN TAKE A BATH.





AND THIS IS
THE ABBOTS SMALL
GARDEN.

GREEN!
KATT LOOK,
GREEN!

IT LOOKS AS
IF THE ORDER HAS
COAXED A BIT OF
LIFE BACK INTO
THE LAND



GREEN IS
GOOD, GREEN
MEANS LIFE.

WHEN SOME
PLANTS TURN THE
RIGHT GREEN THEY ARE
READY TO BE HARVESTED
TO HELP US SURVIVE.
WE MUST THANK
THE PLANT



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SACRIFICE,
WE PROMISE TO TAKE THE
OFFER AND COMPLETE
THE CIRCLE

A CARROT
FOR YOU MY
CHILD.



WHAT DO
WE SAY WHEN WE
RECEIVE THINGS?

THANK YOU
PRIAR PEKIN.

CHOMP!

THE CARROT
IS HAPPY

YOU ARE RIGHT
HONEY IT MUST HAVE
BEEN A VERY HAPPY
CARROT TO TASTE
THAT GOOD.

OH INDEED
IT KNOWS THAT
WE WILL KEEP OUR
PROMISE AND USE ITS
ENERGY TO BETTER
THE WORLD.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SACRIFICE,
WE WILL BRING BACK
THE GREEN.

SMART AS A
WHIP THIS ONE

SHE'S AN INFORMATION SPONGE. I SHOWED HER HOW TO ADD TWO AND THREE TO MAKE FIVE. FROM THAT SHE TAUGHT HERSELF MULTIPLICATION AND DIVISION IN A WEEK.

EIGHT MULTIPLIED BY SEVEN MONEY.

FIFTY-SIX.

FIFTY-SIX DIVIDED BY TWO MONEY

TWENTY-EIGHT

ONE CAN ONLY HOPE.

VERY GOOD. WHO WOULD HAVE IMAGINED TWO INTELLIGENT BEAUTIES TRAVELING THE WASTES? GOOD THINGS ARE BOUND TO HAPPEN.

YOU KNOW THAT IS THE THIRD TIME IN AS MANY WEEKS THAT I HAVE SEEN THE ABBOT AND THREE DIFFERENT MEN. THERE ARE A LOT OF RUMORS FLOATING AROUND ABOUT IT SAME RITUAL, DIFFERENT MONKS. I CAN'T SAY I'VE SEEN ANY OF THEM RECENTLY

ABBOT HAS JUST BEEN GOING ON ABOUT THEIR DEDICATION TO THE ORDER.

YOU CAN HEAR THEM?

YES

BUT THAT'S
QUITE A DIS-

-SACRIFICE FOR
THE ORDER WILL NOT
BE FORGOTTEN. I AM SORRY
THIS HAS COME A WEEK EARLY
I WOULD NOT-

NO ABBOT THIS
IS OUR CHOICE. THE MONEY
WILL BUY ENOUGH FOR A LIFETIME
OF FILTERING EQUIPMENT. IT IS
ABOUT THE LIFE OF THIS COMMUNITY,
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE EFFECT OF CLEAN
WATER. THIS HAS TO BE DONE,
THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY
SIGNS TO IGNORE.

BLAH, BLAH,
BLESSINGS...

FRIAR PEKIN WAS
A GODSEND. HE MAY
HAVE PLANTED THE SEED
OF OUR SURVIVAL BUT IT
IS UP TO US TO MAKE SURE
IT GROWS. WE WILL
GO TONIGHT

GODS THANK YOU
MY SONS. AND I THANK
YOU PERSONALLY YOU HAVE
SHOWN RIGHTEOUS COURAGE AND
ABSOLUTE FAITH. RETURN HERE
AT MIDNIGHT BLESS
YOU MY SONS

GODSEND? WHAT
GODSEND AM I IF I CAUSED
THESE MEN TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES?
WHO AM I STANDING NEXT TO A WOMAN
THAT CAN LIFT LADEN CARTS, RESCUE
CHILDREN AND HEAR BETTER
THAN A RABBIT WITH
FOUR EARS.

YOU SAID THIS
HAS BEEN HAPPENING
RECENTLY,
THREE WEEKS?

I HAVE ONLY
BEEN HERE FOR
THAT TIME

IT APPEARS
THE COST OF
THIS PLACE
IS MORE THAN
FAITH CAN
PROVIDE

IT WOULD
SEEM SOMETHING
IS GOING ON.



I THINK ALICE
AND I ARE GOING TO
TAKE A STROLL AROUND
THIS TOWN.

VERY GOOD.
BE SURE TO STOP
BY THE BAKER



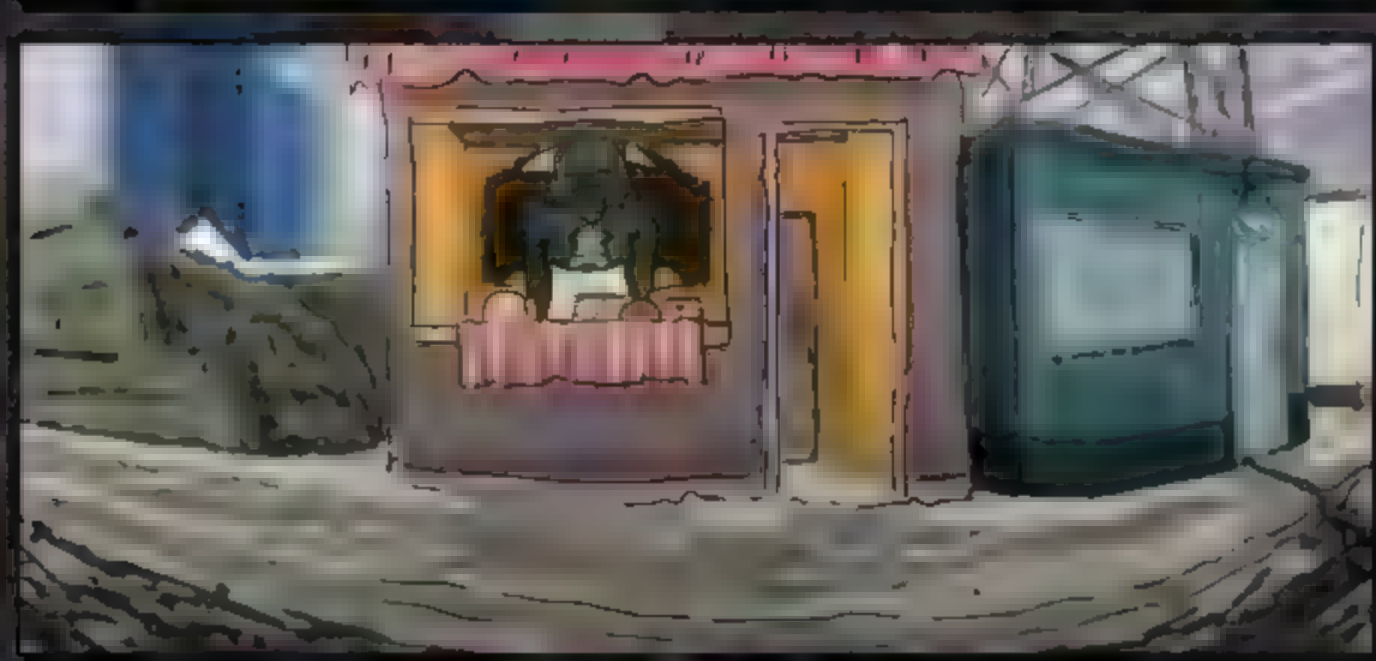
FLASH HIM THIS.

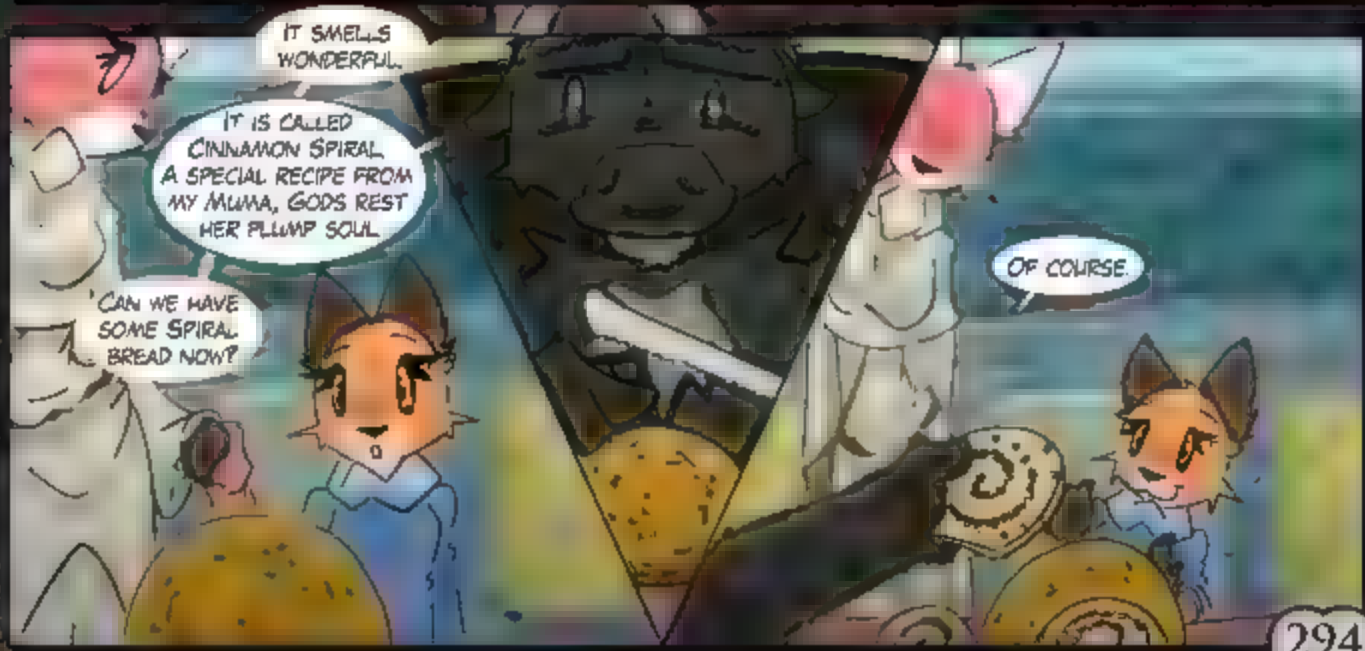
HE'LL COUGH UP
A TREAT FOR YOU.

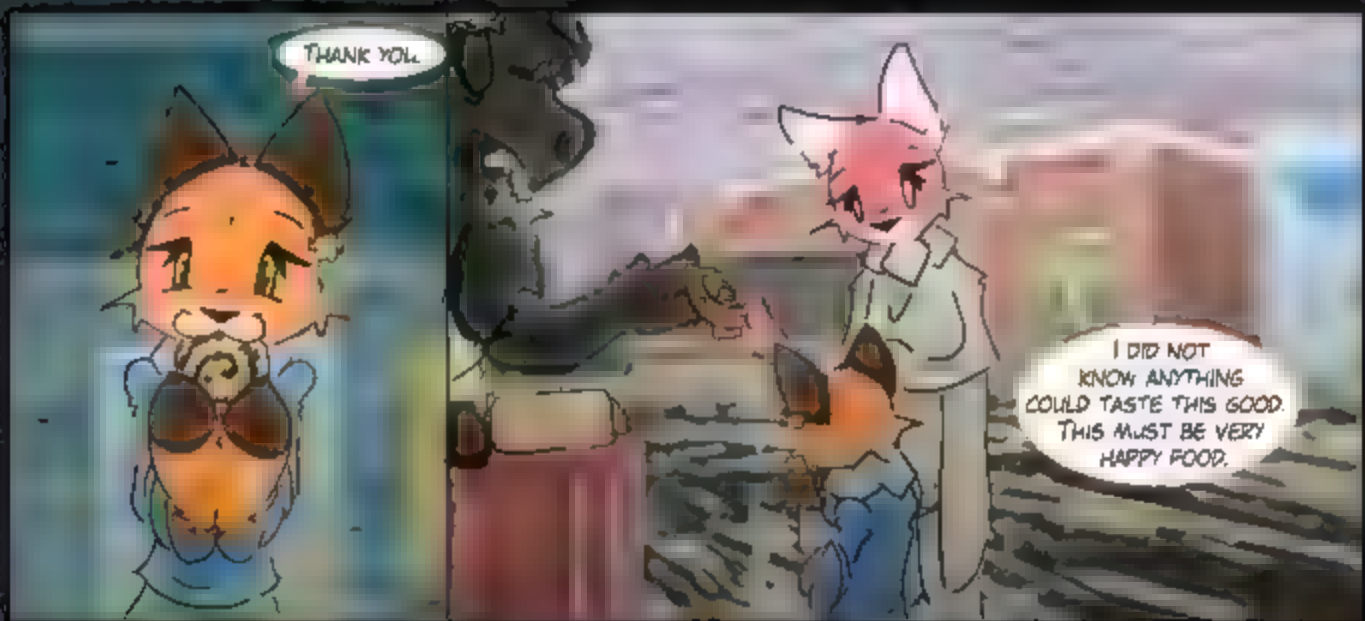
FRIAR IF YOU
TRIED TO DO ANYMORE
GOOD IN A DAY I DO BELIEVE
EVIL WOULD JUST
UP AND QUIT



WELL THAT IS
THE PLAN NOW ISN'T
IT YOU LADIES HAVE
A WONDERFUL
AFTERNOON.







THANK YOU.

I DID NOT
KNOW ANYTHING
COULD TASTE THIS GOOD.
THIS MUST BE VERY
HAPPY FOOD.



BWA-HAHA
HAHAAH!

YOU HAVE BEEN
TALKING TO THE GOOD
PRIAR. HEARING THAT WOULD
HAVE MADE MY MUMA'S
HEART SWELL.

THIS PLACE
DOES SEEM TO
DO HAPPY RATHER
WELL.



WE HAVE OUR
MOMENTS. WE HAVE
ALL BEEN GIVEN A SECOND
CHANCE WHY LIVE IN MISERY
WHEN IT IS SO EASY TO LIVE
HAPPILY WITH
EACH OTHER.

THANK YOU.
AND THANKS TO THE
FOOD AND THANKS
TO YOUR MUMA.

AND THANK YOU

YOU SLEEPY?

A LITTLE,
ARE YOU?

NO, I AM
GOING TO TALK
TO FRIAR PEKIN.
I WILL BE BACK
IN A BIT

OK

THE NUNS ARE
HERE TO WATCH YOU SO
NOTHING HAPPENS.

IT'S NOT THAT...

WHAT IS
IT HONEY?

YOU... YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO LEAVE
ME WITH THEM?

WHATT? NO.
ALICE HONEY. THAT
THOUGHT NEVER CROSSED MY
MIND. I MADE YOU A PROMISE.
I WILL PROTECT YOU UNTIL
MY LAST BREATH.

I WON'T EVER
LEAVE YOU.

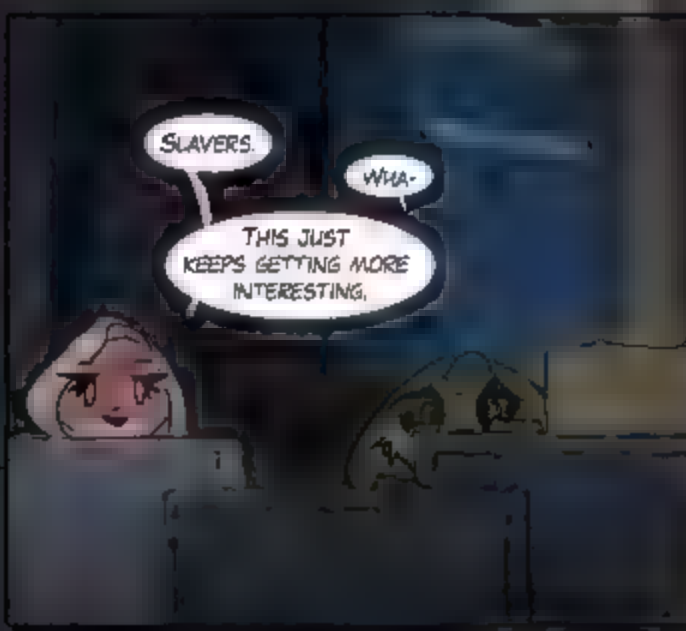
YOU OK?

YES.

GOOD GIRL.
I'LL BE BACK LATER,
GET SOME SLEEP WE WILL
PROBABLY BE LEAVING
TOMORROW

YES KATT





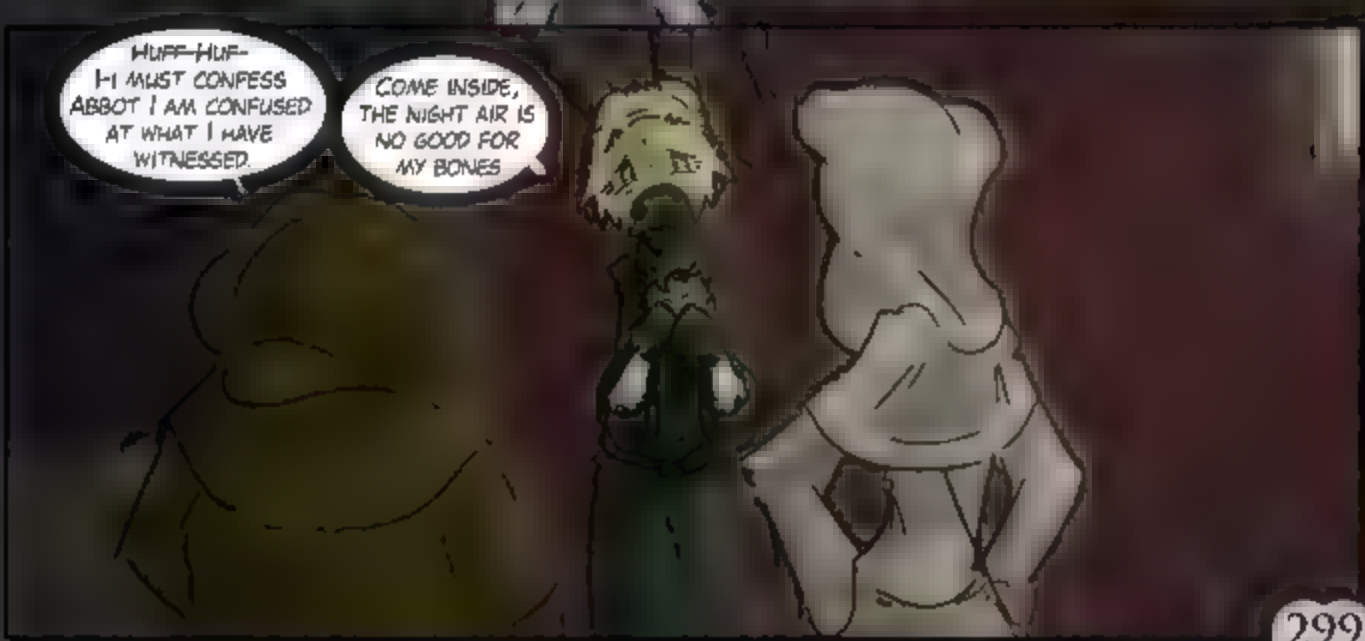


GOODNESS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT AT THIS HOUR MY CHILD?

WELL WHAT I WAS DOING CANNOT BE AS INTERESTING AS A MIDNIGHT MEETING BETWEEN AN ABBOT AND SLAVERS.

FRIAR PEKINT



HUFF-HUF-
I-I MUST CONFESS
ABBOT I AM CONFUSED
AT WHAT I HAVE
WITNESSED.

COME INSIDE,
THE NIGHT AIR IS
NO GOOD FOR
MY BONES

TWO YEARS AGO
THIS TOWN HAD GONE FROM
ONE HUNDRED STRUGGLING LIVES TO
TWENTY IN A MONTH. THE OIL PLAGUE
STRUCK US AND RELENTLESSLY STRUCK DOWN
OUR PEOPLE. THOSE OF US THAT SURVIVED
WERE STARVING. WE HAD MAYBE A FEW
DAYS OF FOOD LEFT AND
NO HELP IN SIGHT

A MAN CAME OUT OF THE WASTES ONE DAY
UNARMED AND CARRYING A SMALL TRAVEL-
ING SATCHEL. HE WAS THE COLOR OF ASH
AS IF HE WERE THE WASTE PERSONIFIED.
STARVED AND THIRSTY HE HAD STUMBLED
UPON THE ONLY PLACE WORSE OFF THAN
HIMSELF. HE SAW OUR FLIGHT, HEARD OUR
STORY AND WAS MOVED.

WE KNEW NOTHING
OF HIM. HE COULD HAVE
BEEN A GHOST SENT TO FORETELL
OUR DOOM OR CONVOY ABOUT TO POUNCE.
HE SAID HE KNEW HOW TO GET THE
TOWN BACK ON ITS FEET. HE
WOULD NEED THREE
HEALTHY MEN.



OUR MONASTERY WAS
NOTHING MORE THEN A SHACK
AND A SYMBOL FROM THEPAST.
FOUR OF US IN TOTAL WITH
A HANDFUL OF INITIATES.

THE ABBOT MERRIN

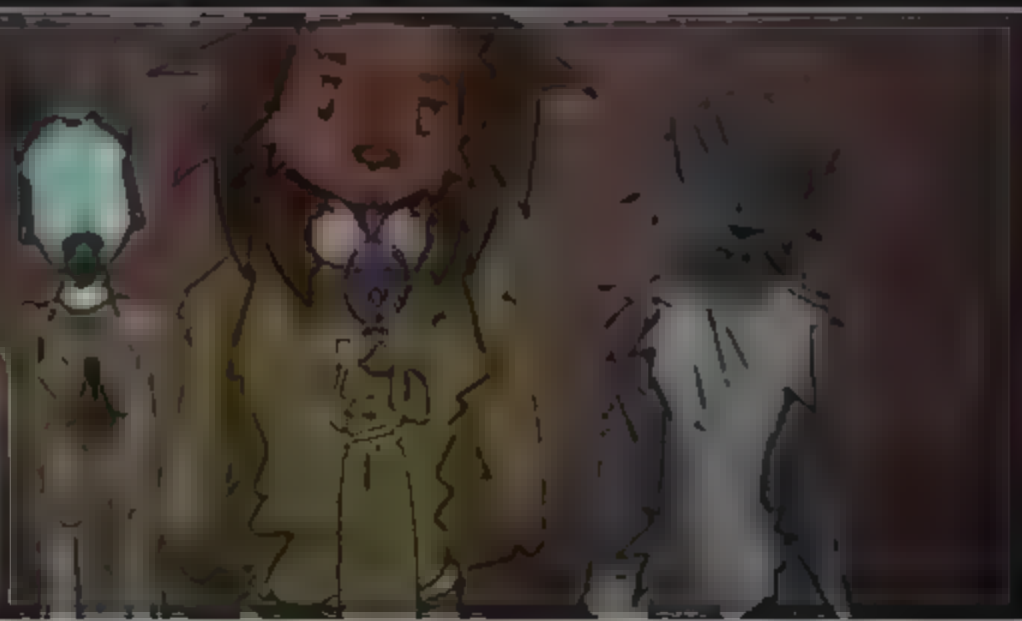
BROTHER LIMOTO

BROTHER JOSEPH
AND MYSELF.

I WAS THE ELDEST OF THE FOUR. THE MAN
TOLD THE TOWN THAT HE WAS WILLING TO SELL
HIMSELF INTO SLAVERY FOR THE TOWN. HE
HAD BEEN A SLAVE BEFORE AND HE WOULD BE
ONE AGAIN IF IT MEANT LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE.
THREE MEN WERE TO ACCOMPANY HIM.

TWO WERE NEEDED TO MAKE
THE SAME SACRIFICE TO PROVIDE
THE TOWN WITH ENOUGH SUPPLIES
TO SURVIVE. THE THIRD MAN WAS
TO BRING BACK THE MONEY
AND GOODS.

HE WAS NEARLY STRUNG UP FOR
THE EFFORT. NO ONE BELIEVED HIM,
MEN HAD BEEN RUNNING THE SAME
CON SINCE JUDGMENT DAY



BUT ABBOT MERRIN SAW
SOMETHING DEEP IN THIS
MAN THAT CAUSED HIM TO
BELIEVE. THE ABBOT
STOOD AND VOLUNTEERED,
ALMOST IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWED BY BROTHERS
UMOTO AND JOSEPH.



BROTHER JOSEPH
WAS TURNED AWAY BY
ABBOT MERRIN. IT WAS TO
BE THE ABBOT MERRIN AND BROTHER
UMOTO THAT WERE TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES
ALONG WITH THE GHOST, AND I TO COLLECT THE
BLOOD MONEY. I AM TOO OLD AND BENT
FOR SLAVERY. THE ABBOT MERRIN
MADE BROTHER JOSEPH THE NEW
ABBOT AND WE LEFT THE
NEXT NIGHT

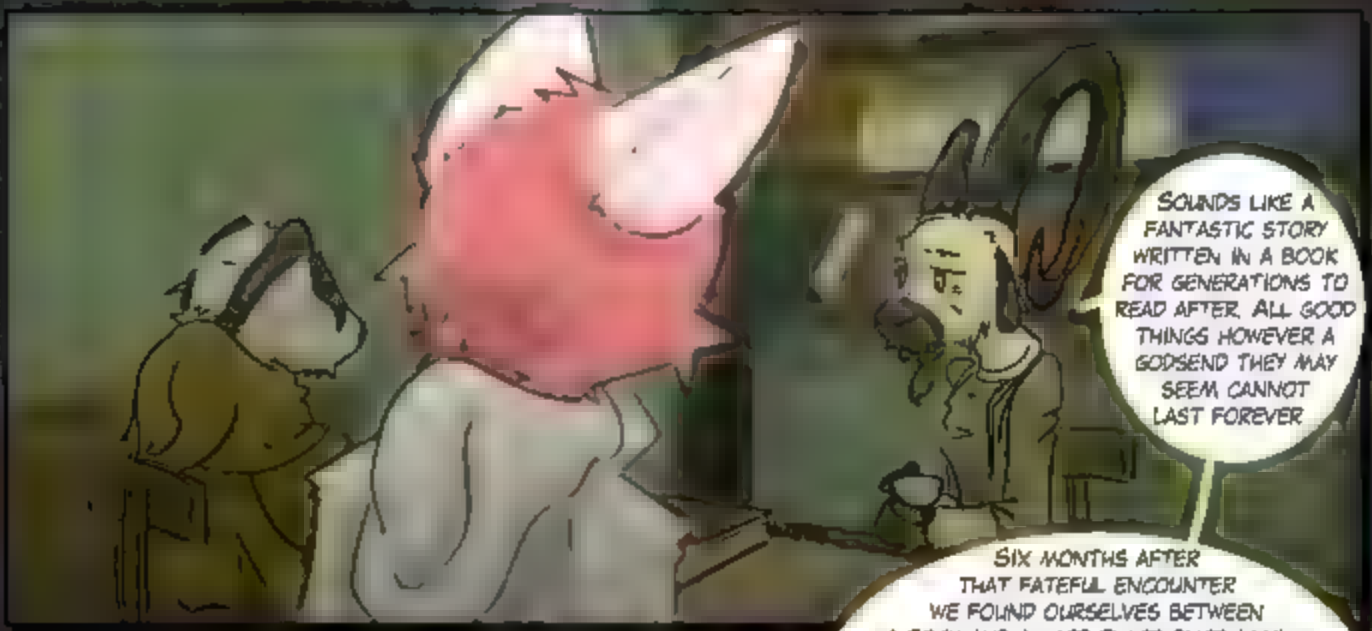
WE PRAYED FOR
THREE DAYS AS WE TRAVELED
ACROSS THE LAND.



WE PRAYED FOR SAFE
PASSAGE, WE PRAYED FOR
THE STRENGTH OF THE
TOWN, WE PRAYED FOR THE
SURVIVAL OF THE PEOPLE,
FOR THE ORDER, AND FOR
THE MAN LEADING US TO
SALVATION OR CERTAIN
DOOM.

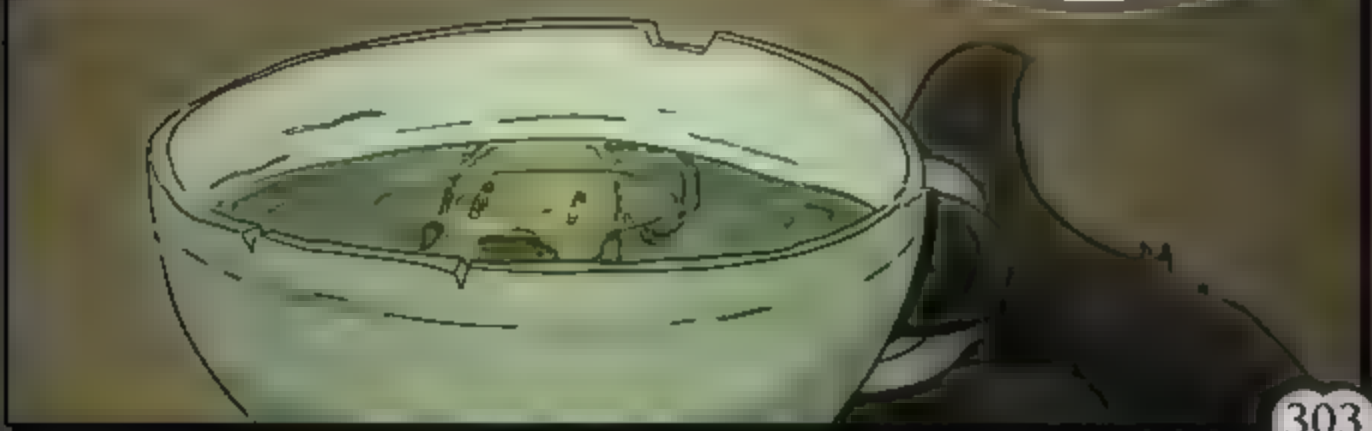
HE WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD EVERY STEP OF THE WAY I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT DAY IT WILL BE A SCAR UPON MY SOUL EVEN AFTER I PASS ON. I RETURNED WITH A WAGONLOAD OF SUPPLIES, SEED, AND WATER.

THE TOWN WAS HUMILED THAT DAY, SHOWN THAT THERE IS GOOD IN THE WORLD. A MARTYR WALKS OUT OF THE WASTES, SELLS HIMSELF INTO SLAVERY SO THAT PEOPLE HE DOES NOT KNOW CAN LIVE ON.



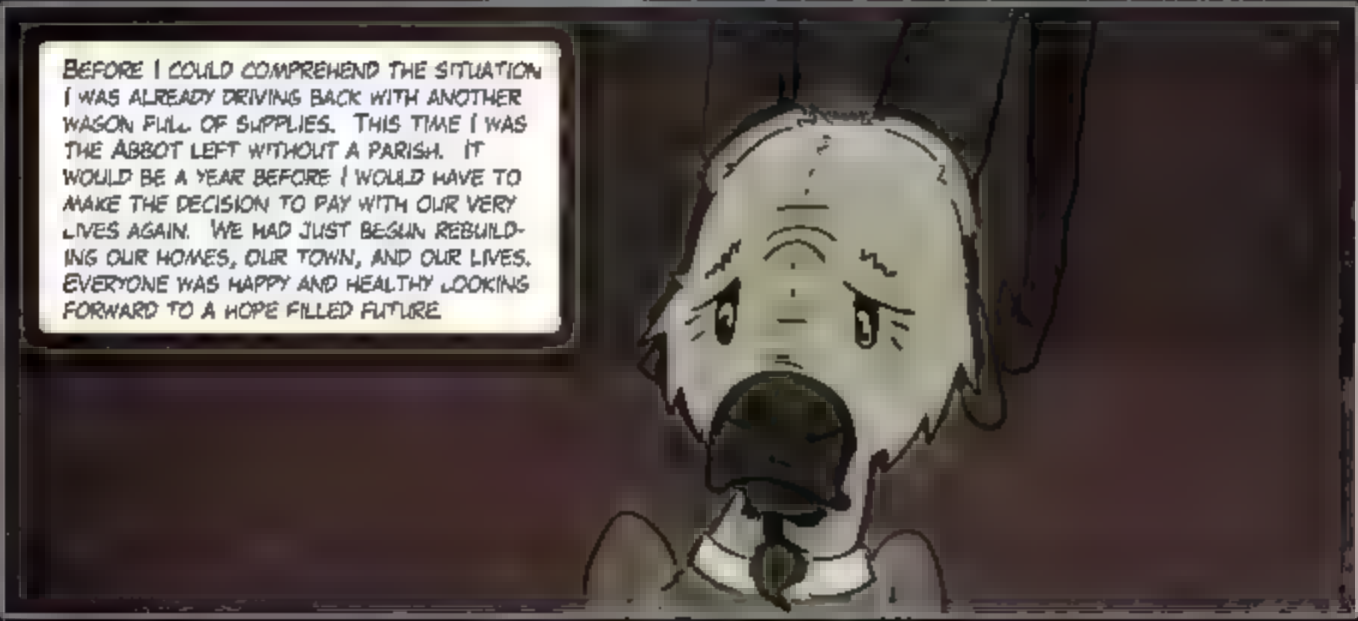
SOUNDS LIKE A FANTASTIC STORY WRITTEN IN A BOOK FOR GENERATIONS TO READ AFTER. ALL GOOD THINGS HOWEVER A GODSEND THEY MAY SEEM CANNOT LAST FOREVER

SIX MONTHS AFTER THAT FATEFUL ENCOUNTER WE FOUND OURSELVES BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE ONCE AGAIN. IT HAD TAKEN A FEW MONTHS TO TURN THE SOIL INTO SOMETHING USEABLE AGAIN, AND THE SEED WE HAD PURCHASED FOR OUR SURVIVAL WAS JUST BEGINNING TO TAKE. WE WERE STILL TWO MONTHS FROM HARVEST WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEKS WORTH OF FOOD





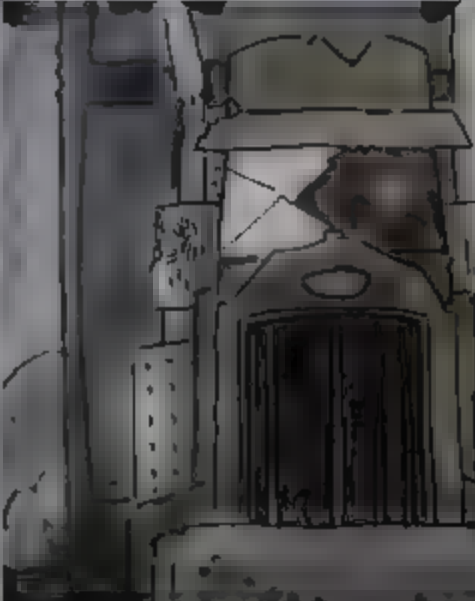
ABBOT JOSEPH CAME TO ME ONE NIGHT
HE HAD FOUND TWO VOLUNTEERS FROM THE
PEOPLE IN TOWN. HE WANTED ME TO TAKE
THE THREE OF THEM TO THE SLAVERS.



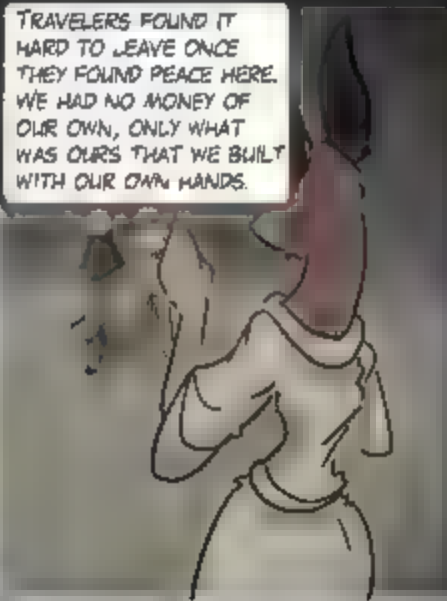
BEFORE I COULD COMPREHEND THE SITUATION
I WAS ALREADY DRIVING BACK WITH ANOTHER
WAGON FULL OF SUPPLIES. THIS TIME I WAS
THE ABBOT LEFT WITHOUT A PARISH. IT
WOULD BE A YEAR BEFORE I WOULD HAVE TO
MAKE THE DECISION TO PAY WITH OUR VERY
LIVES AGAIN. WE HAD JUST BEGUN REBUILD-
ING OUR HOMES, OUR TOWN, AND OUR LIVES.
EVERYONE WAS HAPPY AND HEALTHY LOOKING
FORWARD TO A HOPE FILLED FUTURE



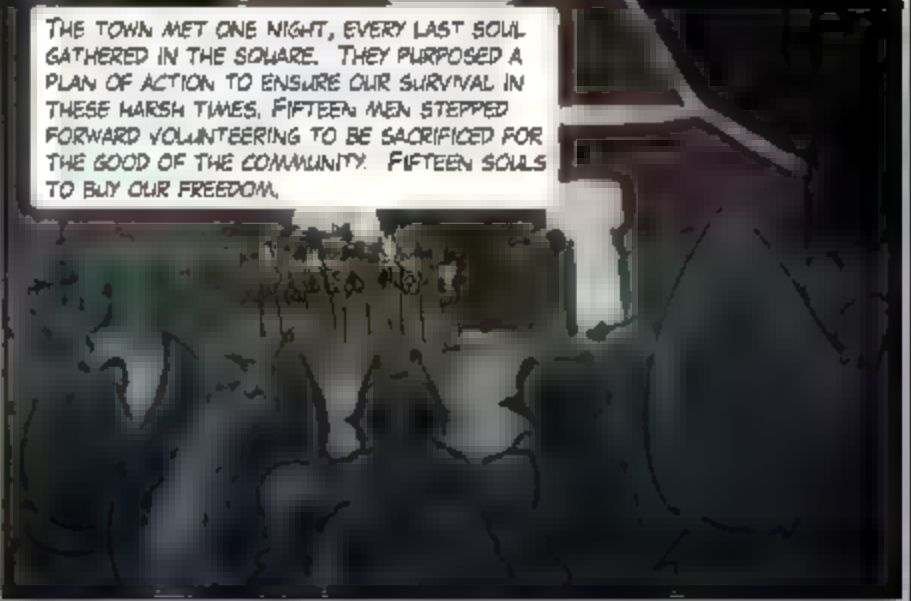
WE WERE NEARING ALMOST ONE HUNDRED
PEOPLE ONCE AGAIN WITH MORE THEN ENOUGH
TO GO AROUND. AND THAT IS WHEN WE
CAUGHT THE CONVOY SCOUT IN OUR MIDST



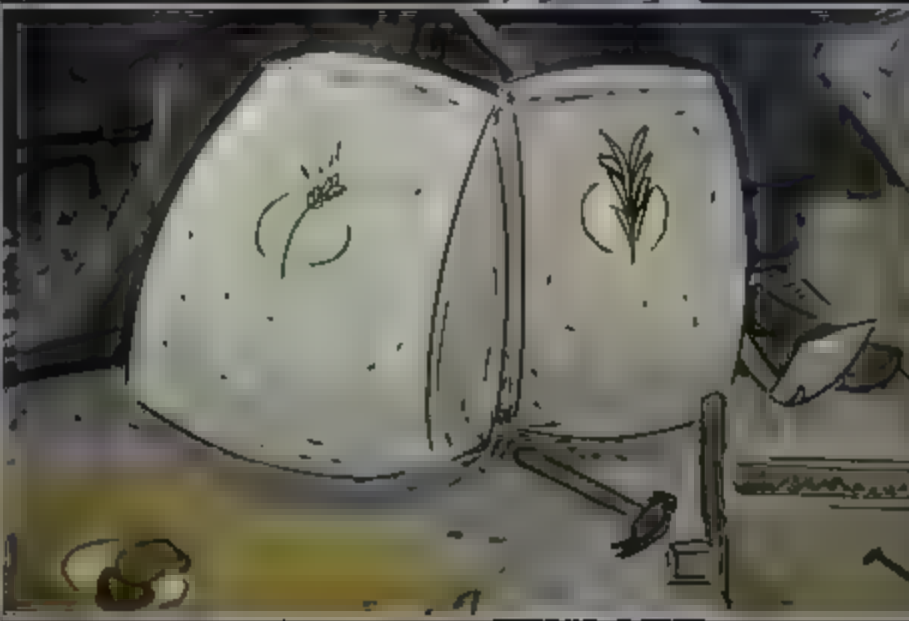
THIRTY OTHERS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO LAY WASTE TO OUR BEAUTIFUL TOWN. HALF OF OUR SUPPLIES AND FOUR OF OUR MEN WERE SOLD TO A LOCAL BAND OF MERCINARIES IN RETURN FOR THEIR PROTECTION. THEY MAY BE AN EVIL LOT BUT MONEY SPEAKS LOUDER THAN ALIGNMENT. THE CONVOY CAME AND THEY WERE REPELLED, AND WE STRUGGLED ON. IT WAS BECOMING VERY CLEAR THAT OUR TOWN NEEDED A PLAN IF IT INTENDED TO SURVIVE. WE HAD NEARLY ONE HUNDRED



TRAVELERS FOUND IT HARD TO LEAVE ONCE THEY FOUND PEACE HERE. WE HAD NO MONEY OF OUR OWN, ONLY WHAT WAS OURS THAT WE BUILT WITH OUR OWN HANDS.



THE TOWN MET ONE NIGHT, EVERY LAST SOUL GATHERED IN THE SQUARE. THEY PURPOSED A PLAN OF ACTION TO ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL IN THESE HARSH TIMES. FIFTEEN MEN STEPPED FORWARD VOLUNTEERING TO BE SACRIFICED FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY. FIFTEEN SOULS TO BUY OUR FREEDOM.



FIFTEEN MEN JOINED THE CHURCH EACH KNOWING HIS FATE. I WAS TO SELL THEM THREE AT A TIME OVER THE COURSE OF A FEW MONTHS. MY HEART WAS CRUSHED AND MY SOUL ACHING. WERE THESE MEN OR WERE THESE VOLOKOV'S? THE FIRST THREE GAVE US SECURITY IN SEED AND HARVESTING EQUIPMENT. THE SECOND AND THIRD GAVE US WALLS AND HOMES. THE FOURTH...

LEFT TONIGHT
THEY WERE TO BUY
US WATER, BUT THE FRIAR
HERE ALLOWED THEM TO BE USED
FOR A GREATER GOOD NOW THAT
WE ARE ABLE TO PURIFY
OUR OWN.

AND THE FIFTH?

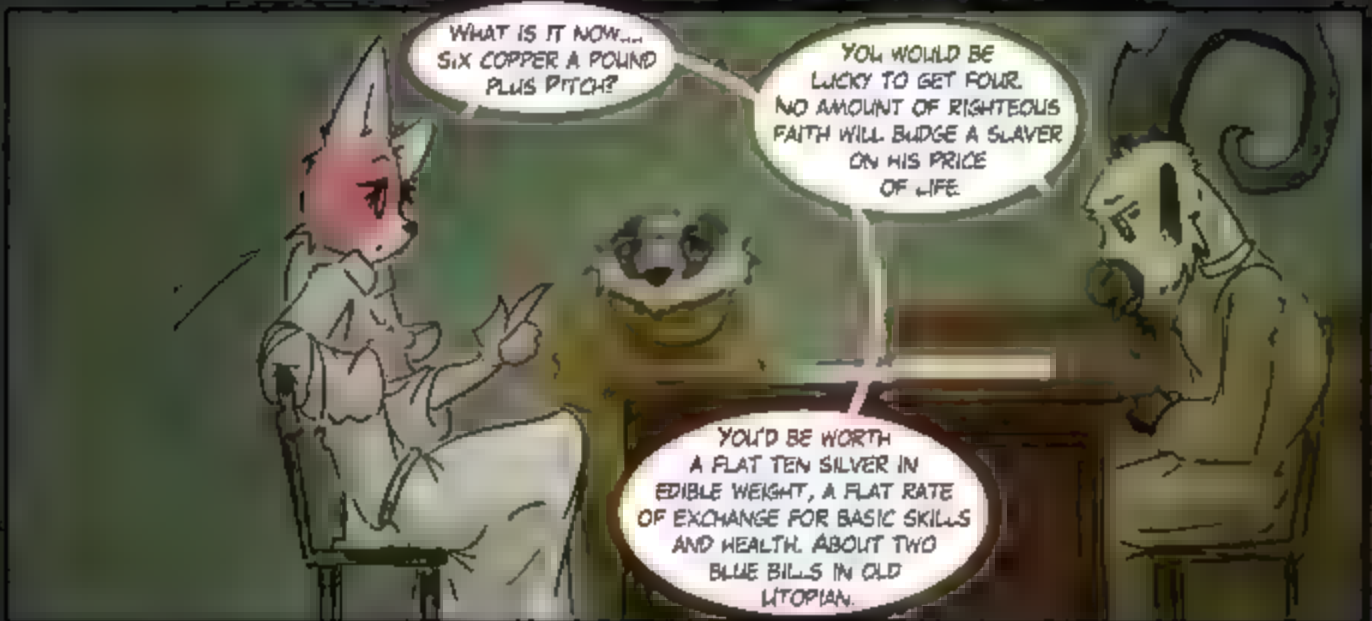
AND THE FIFTH
WILL MAKE SURE
THAT WE ARE NEVER
BOtherED AGAIN

THAT IS SOME
STORY ABBOT

WHAT TROUBLES
YOU MY SON?

I AM TROUBLED FATHER,
A QUESTION HAS ARISEN IN MY
SOUL. YOUR ACTIONS HAVE PROMPTED
ITS ARRIVAL. NOT NECESSARILY A QUESTION
OF RIGHT OR WRONG. WHAT HAS BEEN DONE
WAS DONE OUT OF A WILLING NECESSITY FOR
THE GREATER GOOD BY ITS OWN PEOPLE.
THESE ARE DIRE TIMES.

BUT WHAT IS THE
PRICE OF OUR LIVES? CAN
YOU EVEN PUT A PRICE ON THAT,
ARE WE ALL NOT PRICELESS POTENTIAL?
IS A MAN WORTH A SACK OF GRAIN
OR A FEW LOAVES OF BREAD?



WHAT IS IT NOW...
SIX COPPER A POUND
PLUS PITCH?

YOU WOULD BE
LUCKY TO GET FOUR.
NO AMOUNT OF RIGHTEOUS
FAITH WILL BUDGE A SLAVER
ON HIS PRICE
OF LIFE.

YOU'D BE WORTH
A FLAT TEN SILVER IN
EDIBLE WEIGHT, A FLAT RATE
OF EXCHANGE FOR BASIC SKILLS
AND HEALTH. ABOUT TWO
BLUE BILLS IN OLD
UTOPIAN.



WHICH WITH THE
WASTELAND CONVERSION
RATE WOULD BE ROUGHLY TWENTY
SACKS OF DIRTY GRAIN. I'M NO
BAKER BUT THAT'S A
LOT OF BREAD.

COULD FEED A
LOT OF PEOPLE.



OR IF YOU'RE
CHEATED A WHOLE
PILE OF MONEY FOR
A SLAVER.



A FITTING METAPHOR
FOR THEIR PRACTICE. A WORKING
METAL FOR A WORKINGMAN. WE WOUND
THE WORLD IN COPPER TO CONTROL IT,
AND WHEN WE LOST CONTROL THE
COPPER CONTROLLED US.



HOW DOES ONE
JUDGE A MAN'S WORTH
WITHOUT FIRST KNOWING THE
MAN, THAT IS IF THEY EVER HAD
THE RIGHT TO JUDGE IN
THE FIRST PLACE.

CLAM YOURSELF
FRIAR PEKIN. WE DO
THIS NOW KNOWING ONE
DAY THE WORLD WILL GROW.
ONCE IT HAS MATURED I AM
SURE IT WILL MAKE THE
RIGHT DECISION AGAIN.



OUR BROTHERS GO
KNOWING THEY MARK THE
SLAVERS DOWNFALL. THEY DID
NOT GO AS SLAVES THEY WENT AS
FREE MEN TO SHOW THE WORLD, TO
SHOW THE UNIVERSE, NO TO SHOW GOD,
THAT WE ARE NOT AFRAID. WE WILL
FIX THIS...
ALL OF THIS



WELL, THIS
WAS FUN.

I'M HEADED NORTH
TOMORROW, ALICE AND I
WILL BE SURE TO SAY OUR FAREWELLS
IN THE MORNING. YOU BOYS DON'T SAY
UP TOO LATE TRYING TO
ORGANIZE THE SHEEP



ABBOT, FRIAR.



THE RUMORS
ARE TRUE, IT IS
DEFINITELY HER.

THE SLAVERS
ARE AFRAID.
THERE IS
SOMETHING TROUBLING
ABOUT THAT WOMAN.

SHE CONFESSED
TO YOU?



WE COULD BUY
HER SERVICES AND SEND
HER EAST IMAGINE THAT WHOLE
BLASPHEMOUS COMPOUND EMPTY
WE COULD START A
SISTER COLONY



NO I FEAR THAT
AGREEMENT WOULD BE
AS CLOSE AS ONE COULD GET
TO MAKING A DEAL WITH
THE ACTUAL DEVIL.

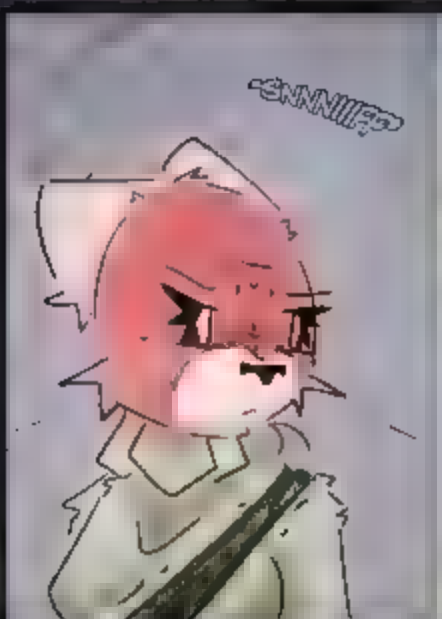
ABBOT I MUST
PROTEST, SHE IS
NO DEVIL.

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT
SHE IS AND DO NOT JUDGE HER
AGAINST GOSSIP SHE HAS BEEN A
PERFECT GUEST DURING HER STAY AND
HER CHILD IS AN ABSOLUTE
ANGEL. BUT...

WHEN SHE IS NEAR,
THE GRAVITY SEEMS TO GROW
DENSE AROUND HER, LIKE A BLACK
HOLE FOR TROUBLE. YOU FEEL DRAWN
BY IT BUT ONE SLIP WOULD SEND
YOU FALLING INTO
THE ABYSS

MOTHS TO
A FLAME

YOU TAKE CARE
LITTLE ALICE LISTEN
TO KATT SHE WILL KEEP
YOU FROM HARM. THANK THE
LAND WHILE YOU ARE OUT
THERE, MAKE IT SMILE
AND BRING BACK
THE GREEN.



SORRY I
THOUGHT I-



THOUGHT I
RECOGNIZED SOMEONE...
NEVER MIND



WHERE DO YOU
PLAN ON GOING?

I USED TO HAVE
A FRIEND TO THE NORTH.
I NEED HIM TO TRANSLATE
SOMETHING FOR ME.



IT HAS BEEN
A WHILE SINCE WE
HAVE SENT ANYONE NORTH.
IT IS UNFORGIVING TERRITORY
TRAVEL SAFE MY DEAR
KATT AND LITTLE
ALICE.



MAY YOUR PATH
STAY SAFE AND YOUR
HEALTH KEEN.



THANK YOU ABBOT

THANK YOU
ABBOT MAURICE.







TAKA-TAKA-TAKA-TAKA-TIKITA-TAKATA-TIKITA-TAKATA-TIKITA-TAKATA-TIKITA-TAKATA-TIKITA-TAKATA

~~TAKATA-TAKATA-TAKATA-TAKATA-TAKATA-TAKATA~~

WERRRRRRNT WERRRRRRNT!

WHERE DO
THEY GO?

WEST TO THE
BOTTOM OF THE RIFT
I WOULD GUESS,
AND EAST ..

ARE THEY
SAFE?

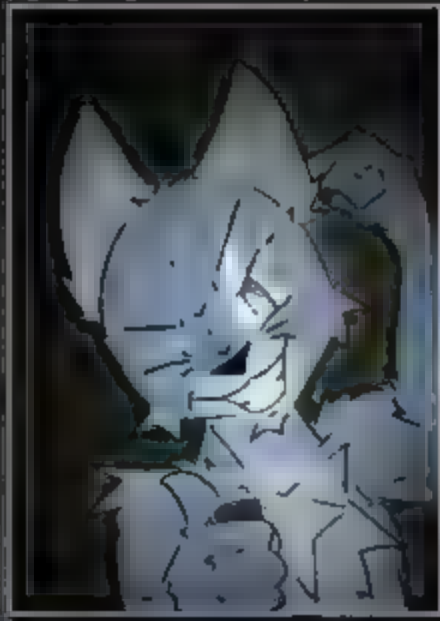
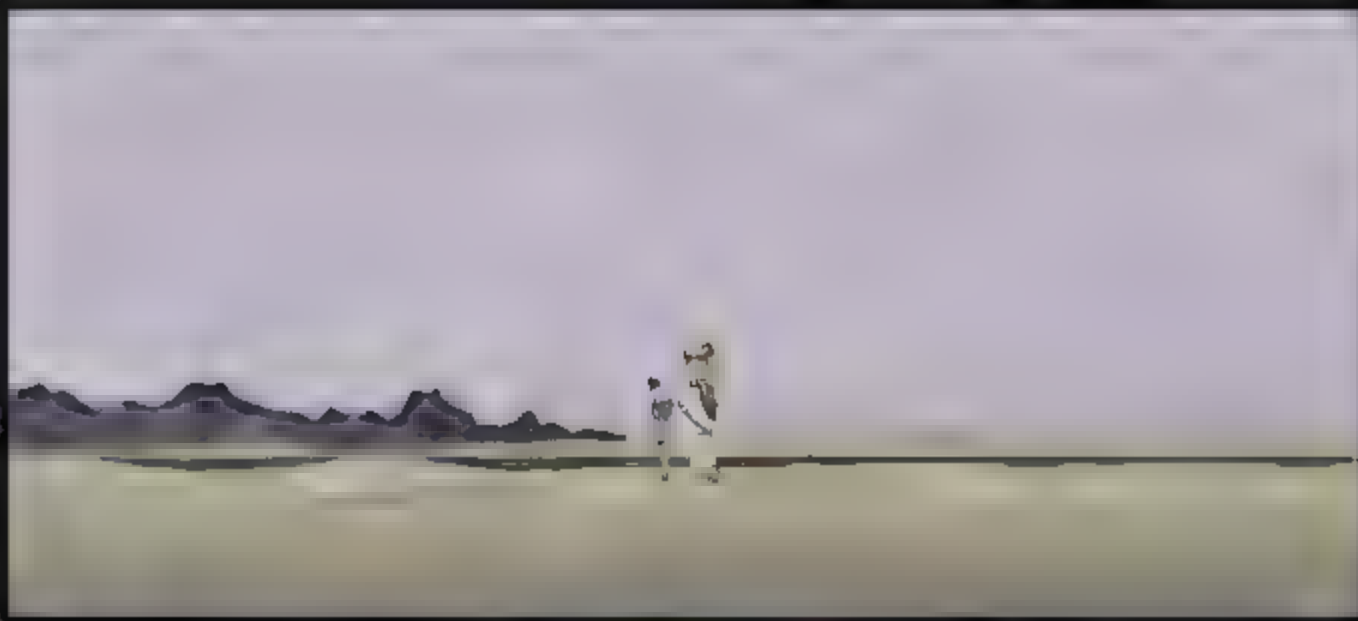
NO.

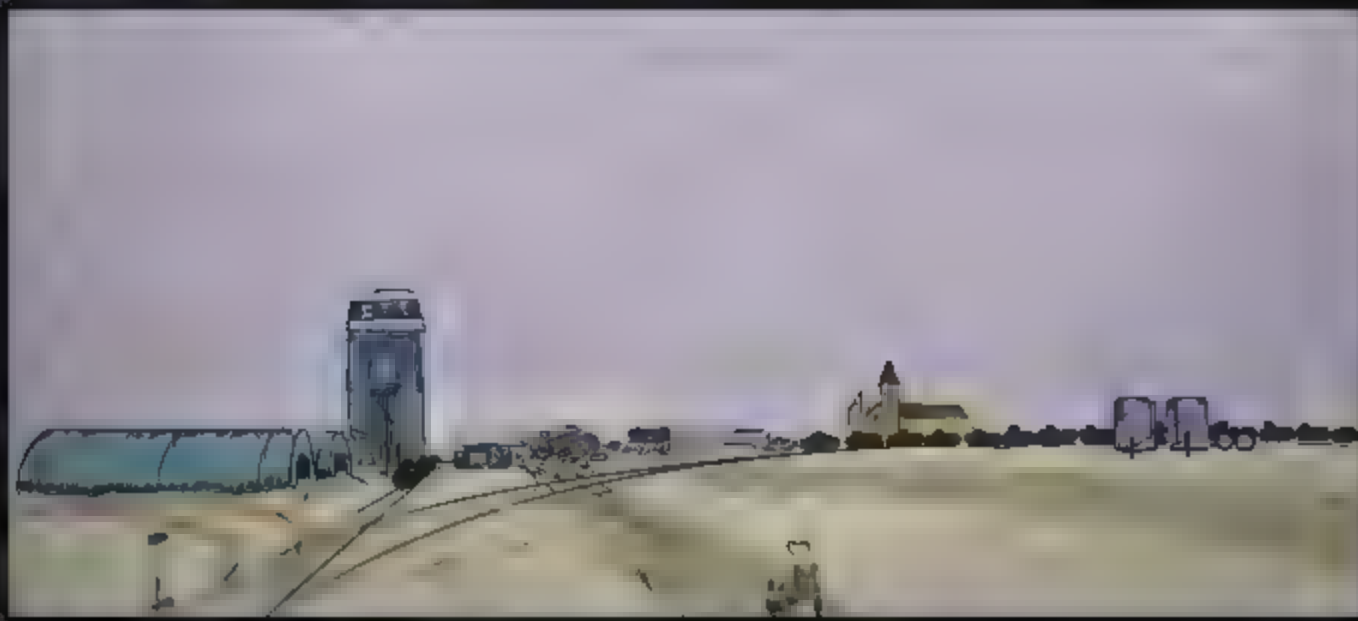
Oh.

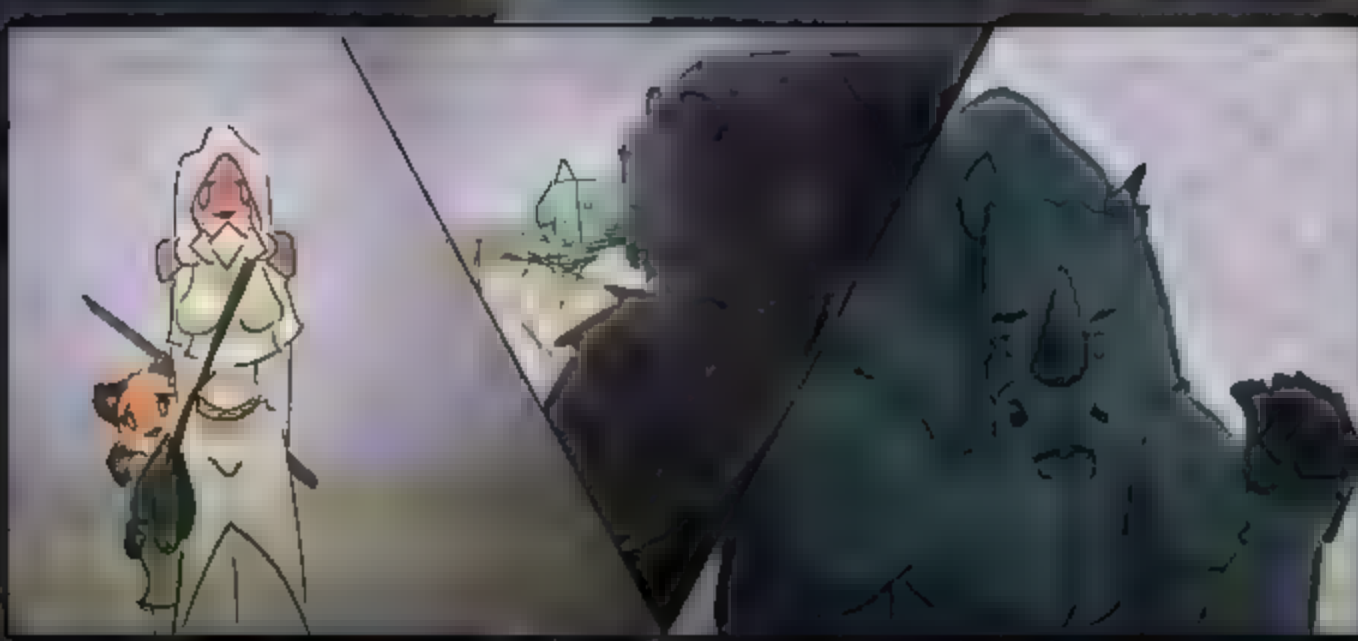
WE MIGHT HAVE
TO GO TO THE TOWN.
WE NEED SUPPLIES TO LAST
US A WEEK AND I CANNOT SAY HOW
FAR ANOTHER TOWN IS
TO THE NORTH.

OK.











MOM!

READY?

TOOK YOUR
TIME



WE SHOULD
NOT HAVE
COME HERE

CAN WE GO?

I DON'T THINK
THAT IS AN OPTION
ANYMORE.

RING THE
BELL BLUEBERRY

KINDA SCRAWNY
ARN'T THEY
BLUE BALLS?

STOP PLAYING IN
THE BRAMBLES LITTLE
BROTHER, ONLY TEN
MILES TO GO.

STAY CLOSE
TO ME NO
MATTER WHAT

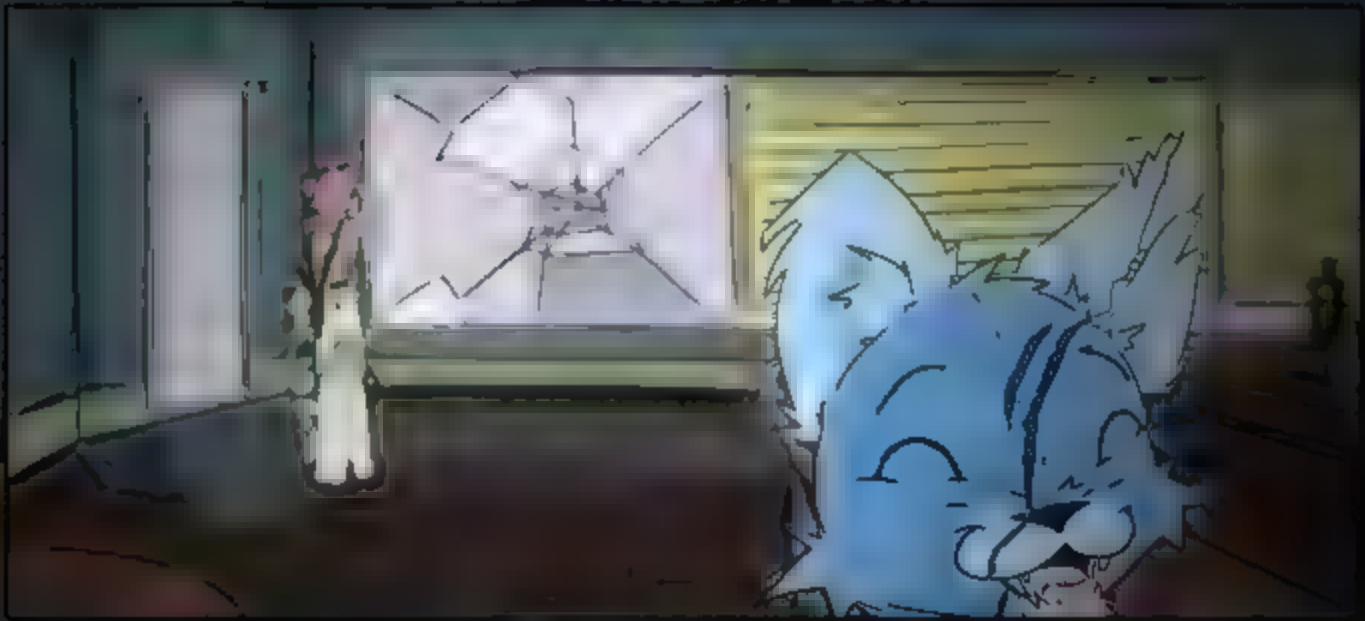


IF THE WORST
HAPPENS AND WE
ARE SEPARATED



I WILL COME
FOR YOU



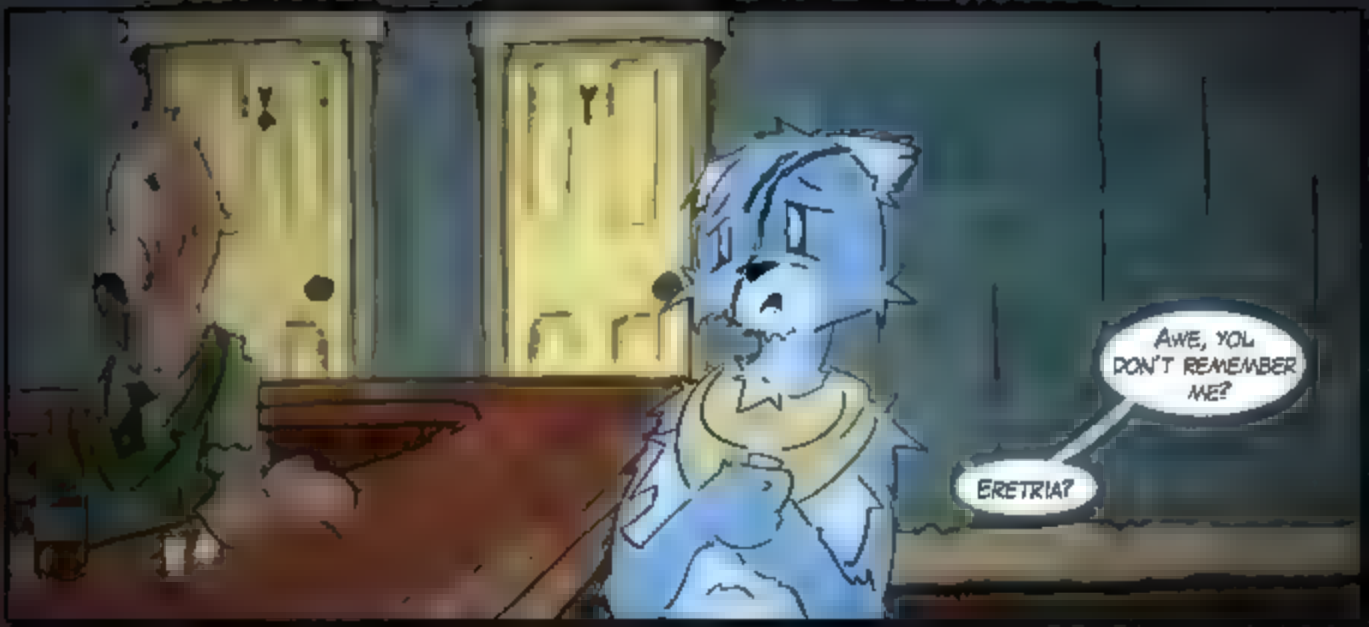


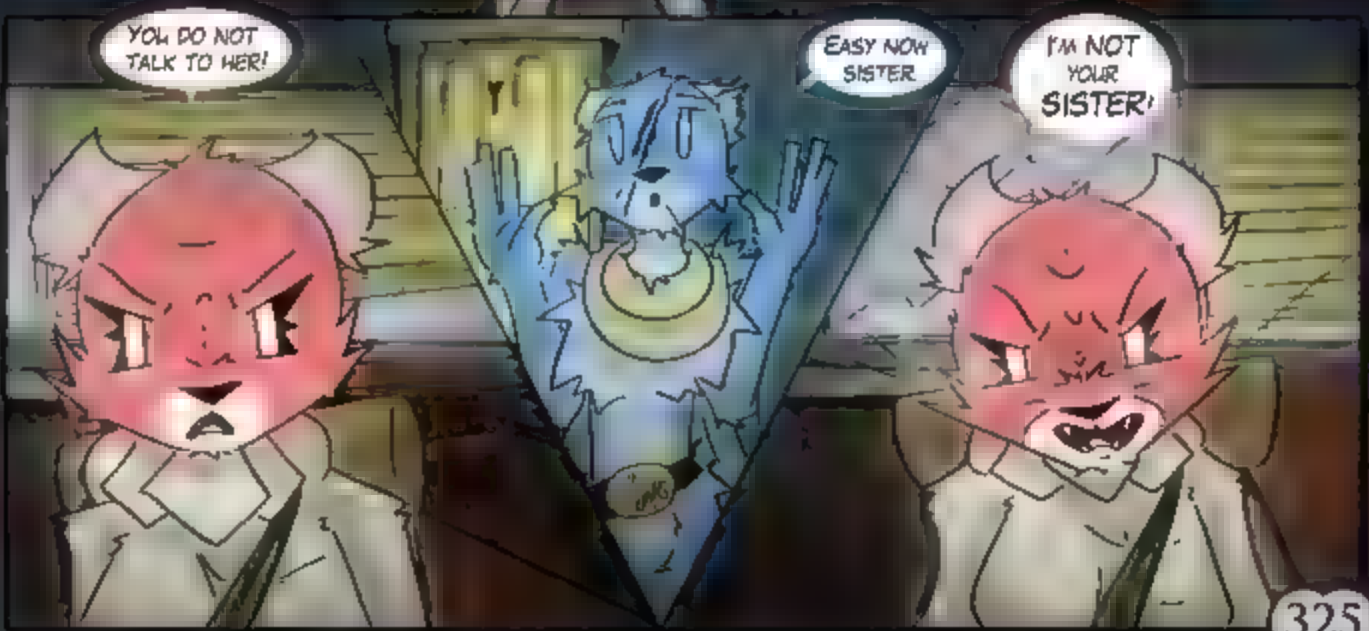
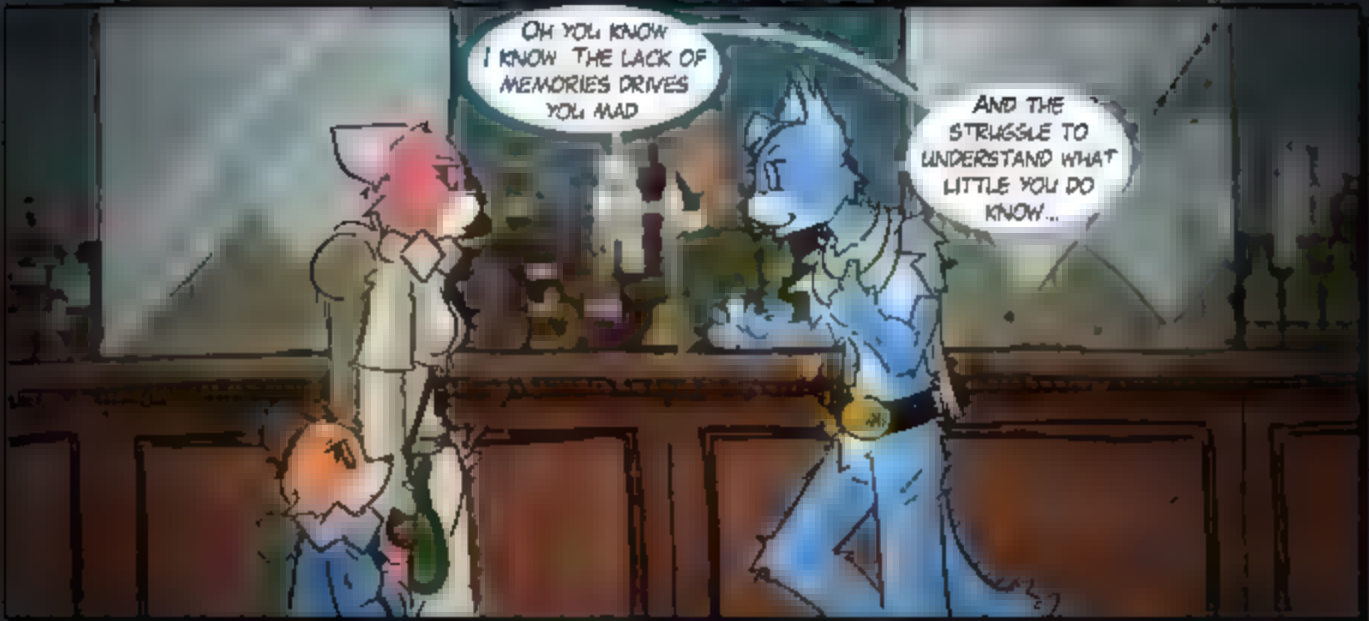
WELL, WELL, NOW
THAT IS A FACE I HAVE
NOT SEEN IN



WELL YOU RIGHTLY
CAN'T REMEMBER HOW
LONG NOW CAN YOU?

WHO
ARE YOU?

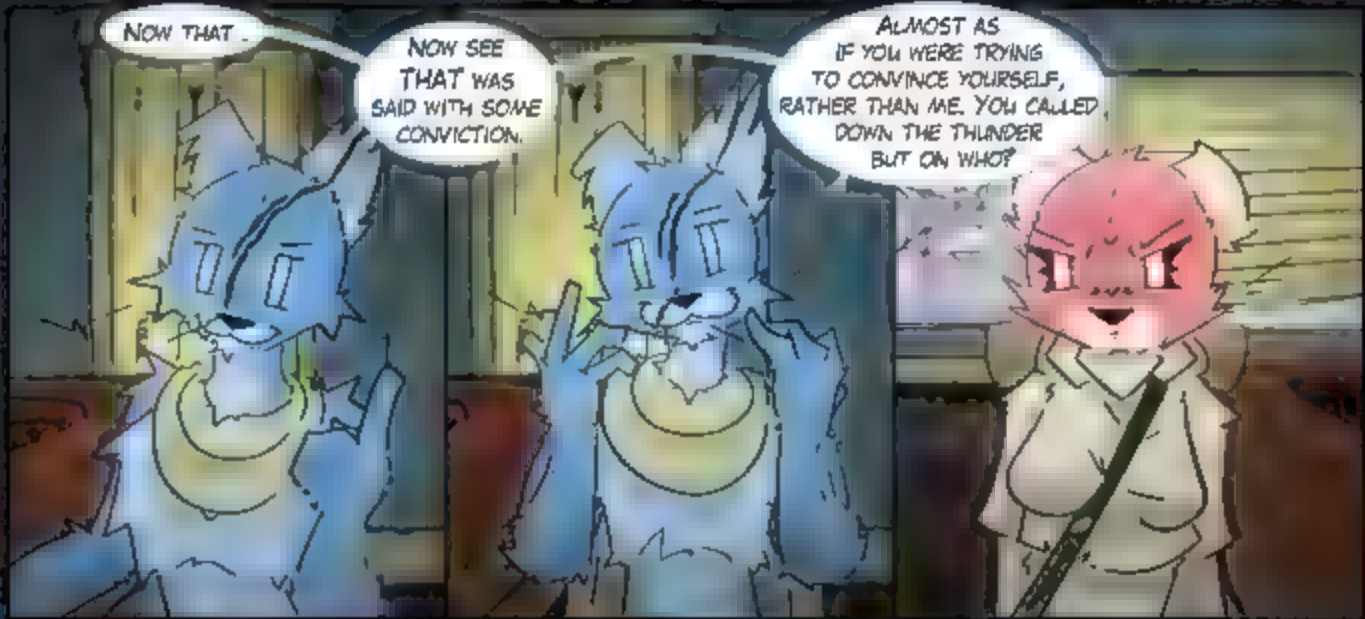




NOW THAT

NOW SEE
THAT WAS
SAID WITH SOME
CONVICTION.

ALMOST AS
IF YOU WERE TRYING
TO CONVINCE YOURSELF,
RATHER THAN ME. YOU CALLED
DOWN THE THUNDER
BUT ON WHO?

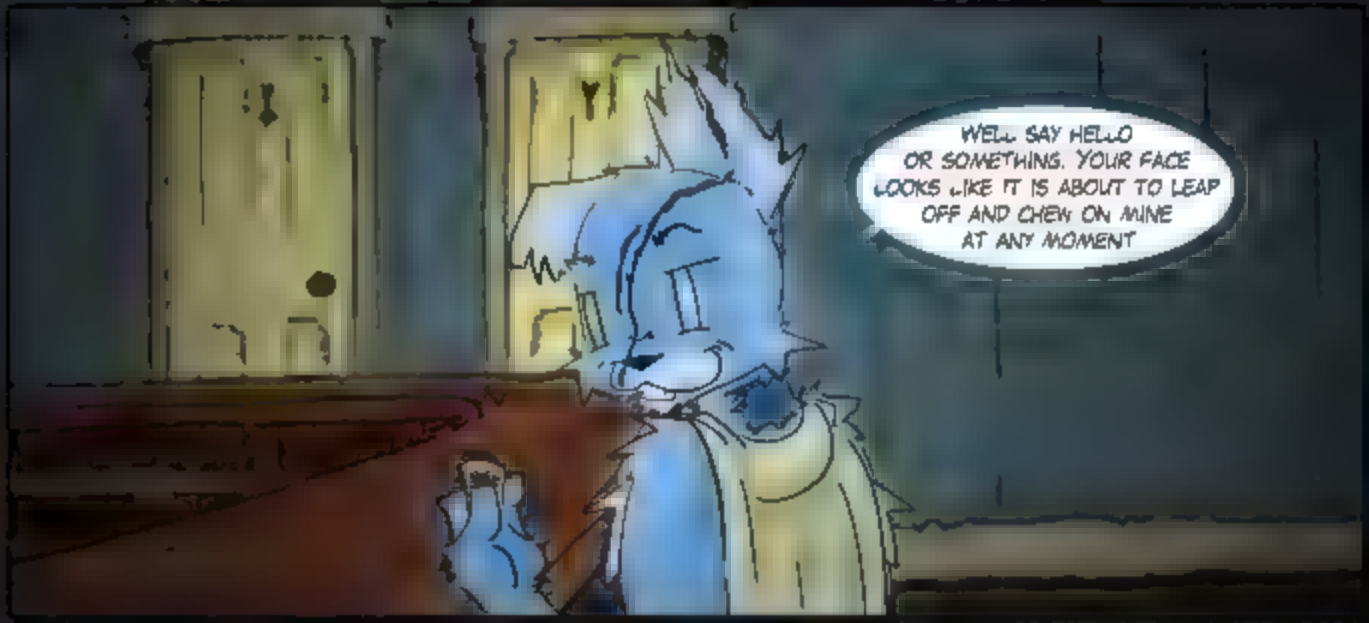


I SEE YOU
ARE AS DIPLOMATIC
AS EVER SISTER.
SIT

I'LL STAND

SUIT YOURSELF,
DRINK?





WE'LL SAY HELLO
OR SOMETHING. YOUR FACE
LOOKS LIKE IT IS ABOUT TO LEAP
OFF AND CHEW ON MINE
AT ANY MOMENT

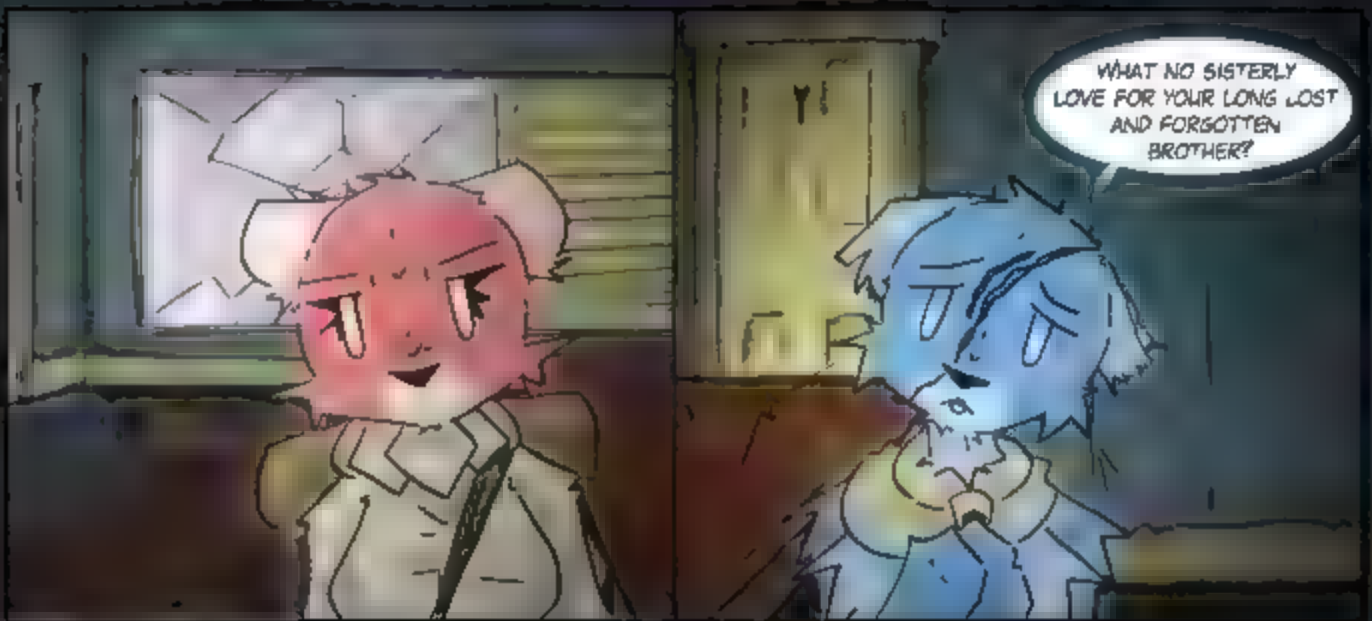


THEN SLAM IT UP
FOR ME BEFORE MY FACE
GETS TO WORK



WE ARE SIBLINGS

GIVE US A HUG
SISTER OF MINE.



WHAT NO SISTERLY
LOVE FOR YOUR LONG LOST
AND FORGOTTEN
BROTHER?

NO,
THERE IS NO LOVE
HERE FOR YOU.

YOU MAY BE
MY BROTHER BUT THERE
IS A DEEP FEELING INSIDE TELLING
ME THAT I SHOULD SEE YOU DEAD
BEFORE YOUR NEXT
HEARTBEAT.

IT IS BY SHEER
FORCE OF WILL ALONE
THAT I RESTRAIN MYSELF
FROM KILLING YOU.

THEN WHY STAY
YOUR HAND? SURELY IT
IS NOT OUR OF
KINSHIP

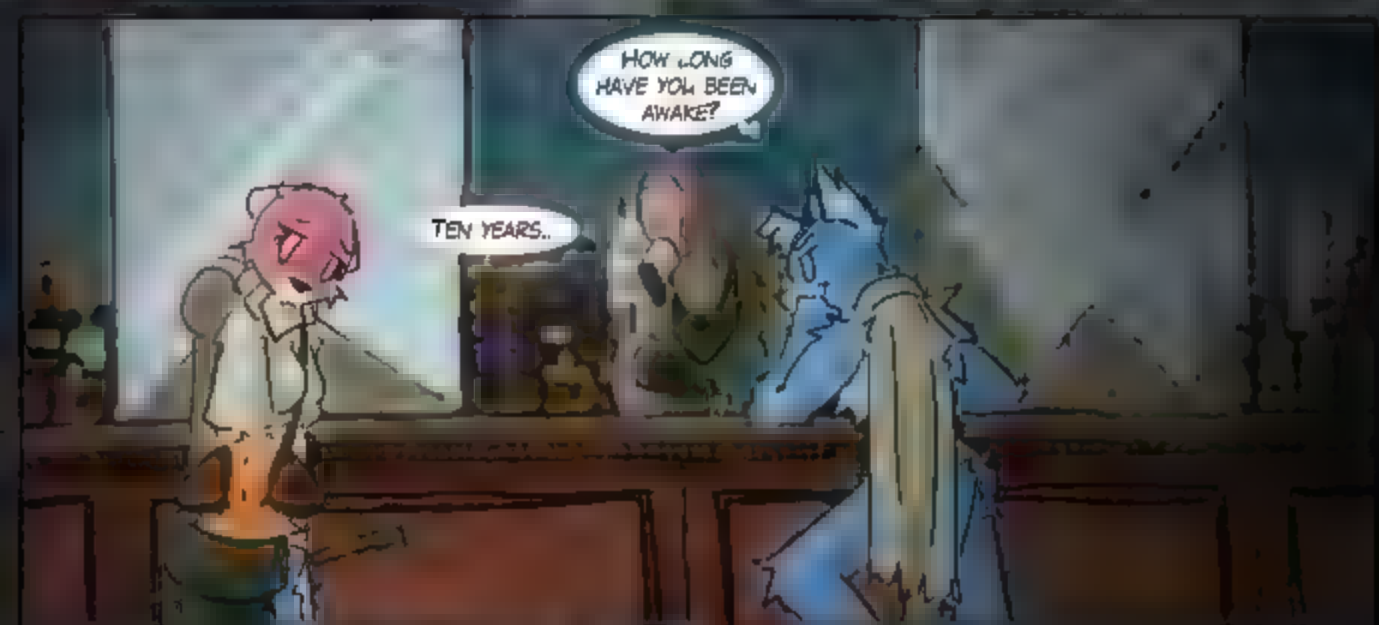
WHO AM I?

WOW, I HAVE
NEVER SEEN THE
INTERDICTION LAST
SO LONG.

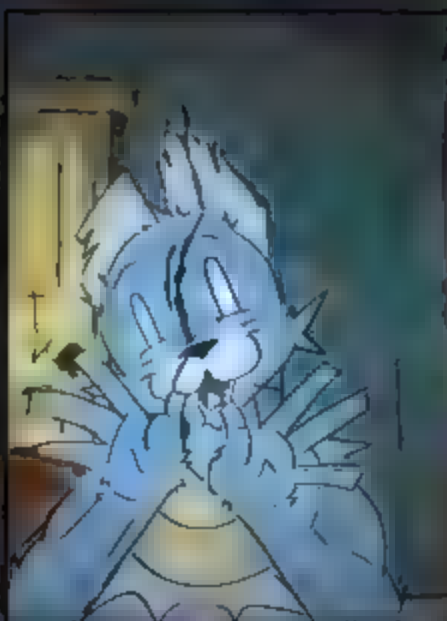
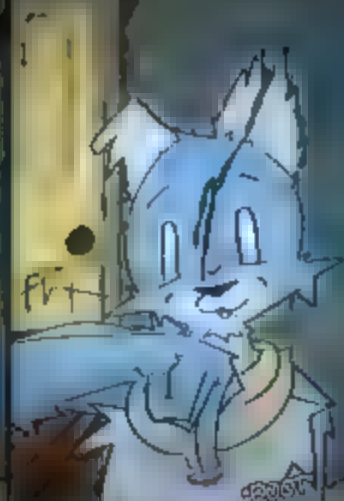
I REMEMBER
THE TRAINING DOSE
WE WERE GIVEN

WE'LL NOT REMEMBER
IT, I REMEMBER THE HOUR
BEFORE IT AND THE MONTHS IT
TOOK TO RECOVER MY MEMORY, IT
TOOK NEARLY A YEAR TO
GET IT ALL BACK.

TRAINING?



YOU KNOW...



WE'RE OFF
TOPIC.



HEHEHE, I TOLD
MOTHER NOT TO HIDE
YOU UNDER THE BEANS NOSE
HE HAD EXPRESSED A DEEP
DISPLEASURE IN YOU.



MOTHER?

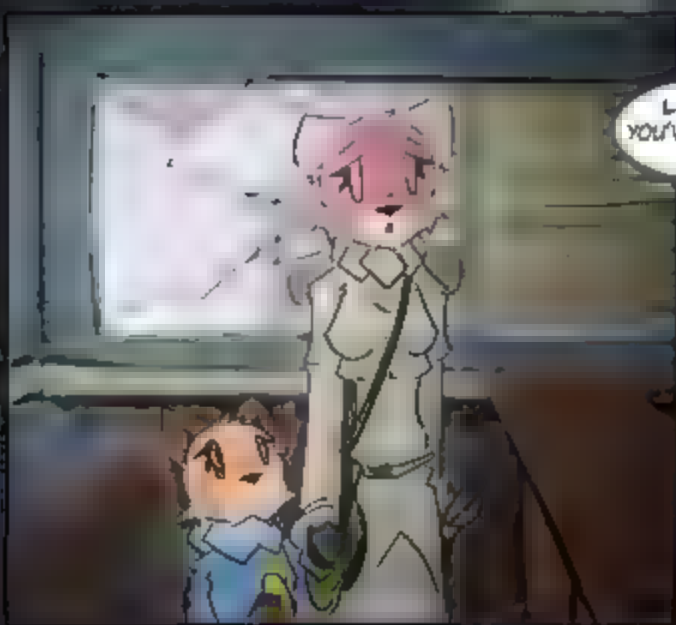
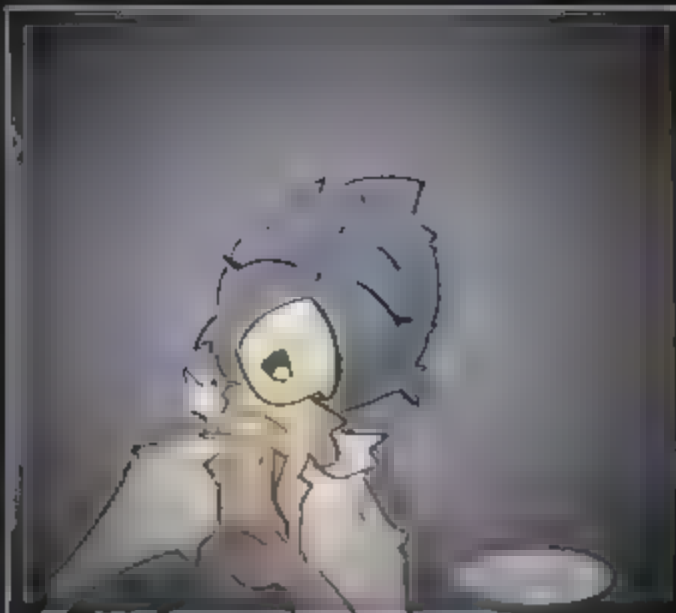
OH I AM SURE
YOU REMEMBER
MOTHER.

CRAZY LITTLE
BLUE BIRD.

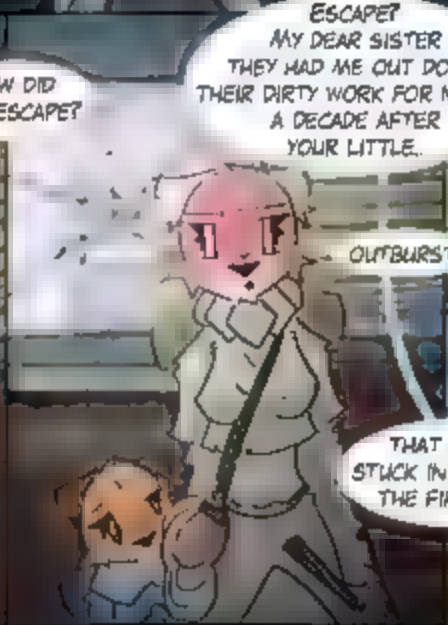
NOT CRAZY LIKE
AAAAHHHHH!!!

CRAZY LIKE
NOT EXISTING IN
THE SAME WORLD AS
THE REST OF US.





LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE JUST SEEN
A GHOST



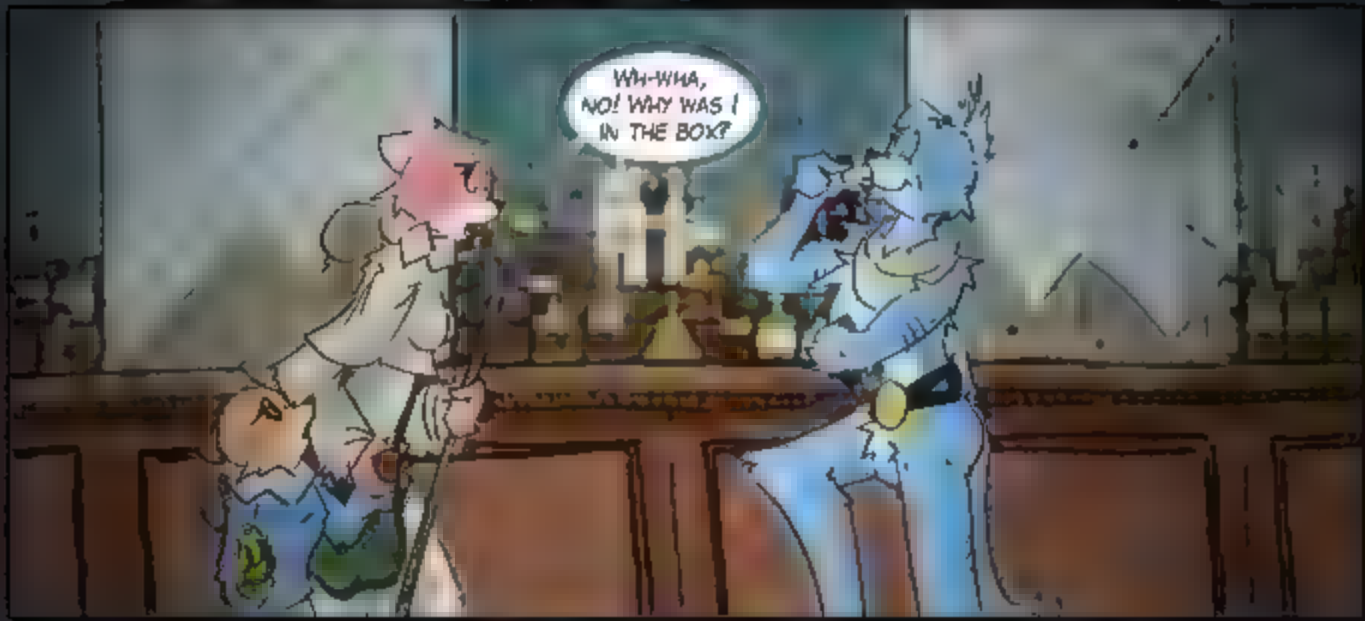
But

HOW DID
YOU ESCAPE?

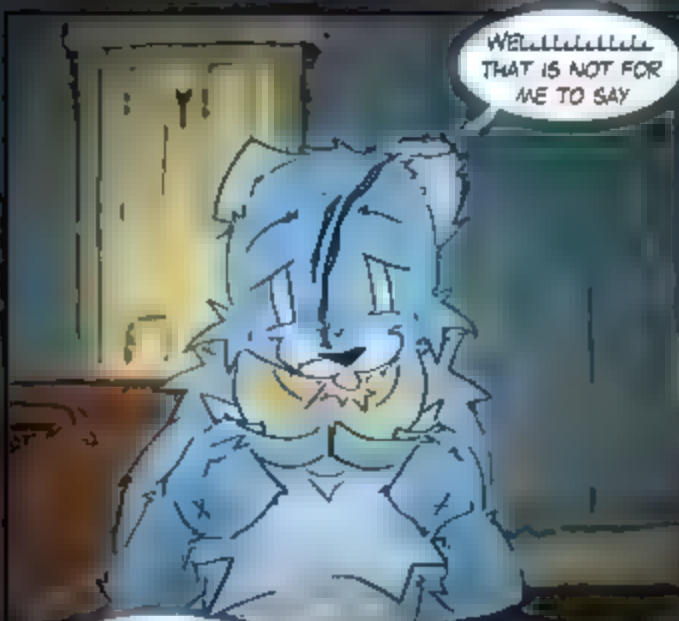
ESCAPE?
MY DEAR SISTER
THEY HAD ME OUT DOING
THEIR DIRTY WORK FOR NEARLY
A DECADE AFTER
YOUR LITTLE

OUTBURST

THAT GOT YOU
STUCK IN THE BOX IN
THE FIRST PLACE



WH-WHA,
NO! WHY WAS I
IN THE BOX?



WE'LLLLLLLLLL
THAT IS NOT FOR
ME TO SAY



DON'T PLAY
GAMES WITH
ME COLE!



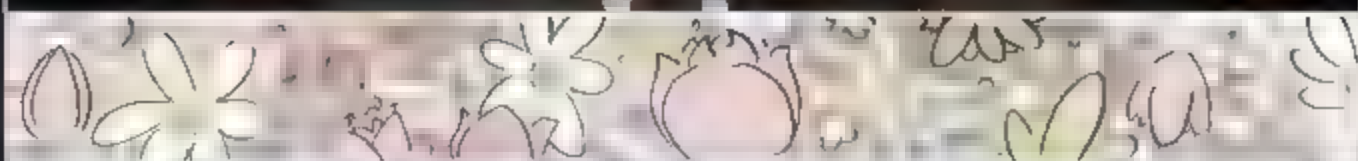
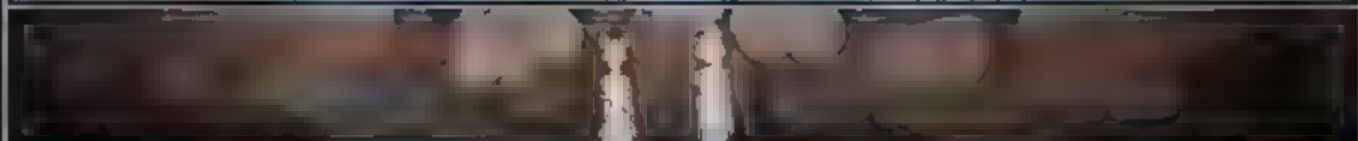
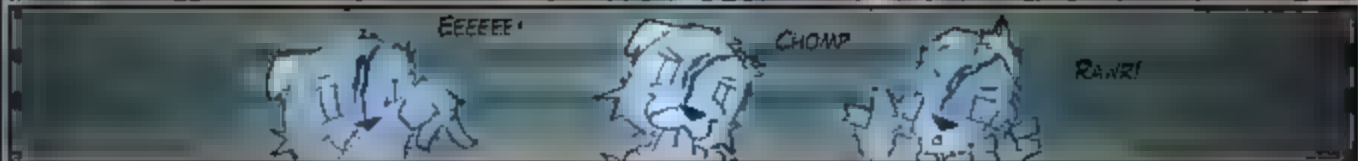
YOU'RE GOING
TO THINK I AM CRAZY
LET'S JUST SAY THE BEAN HAD
AN IDEA THAT YOU DID NOT
PARTICULARLY TAKE
A SHINE TOO



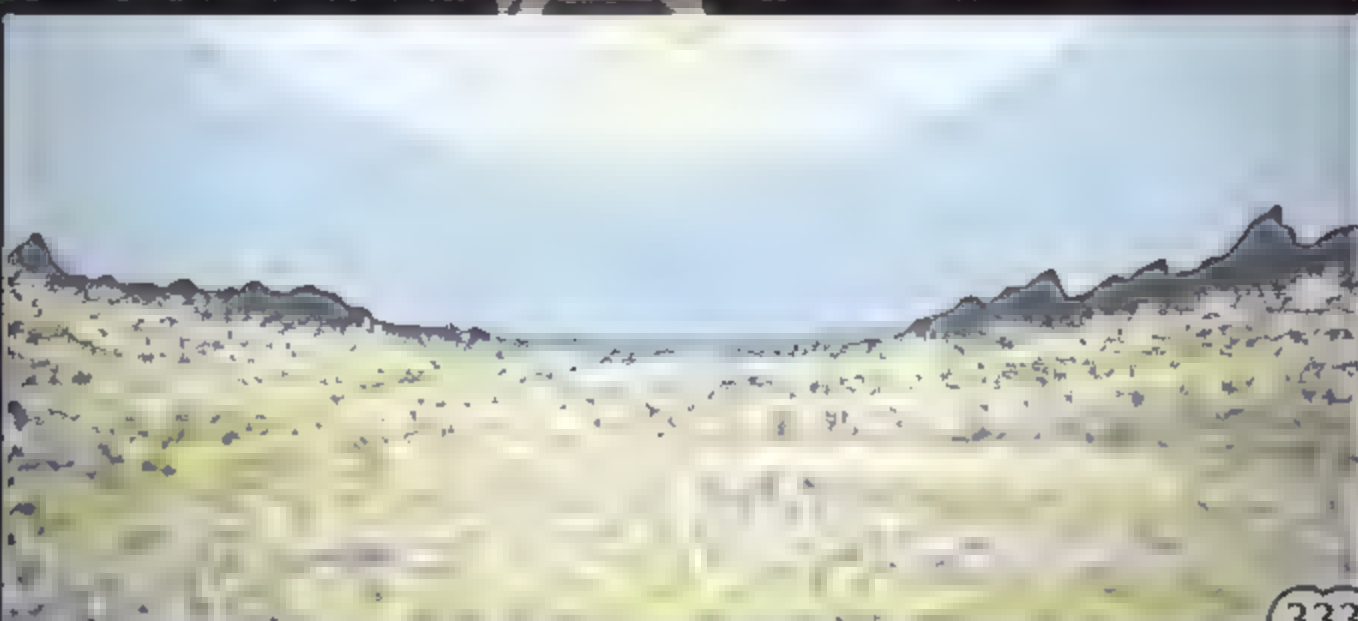
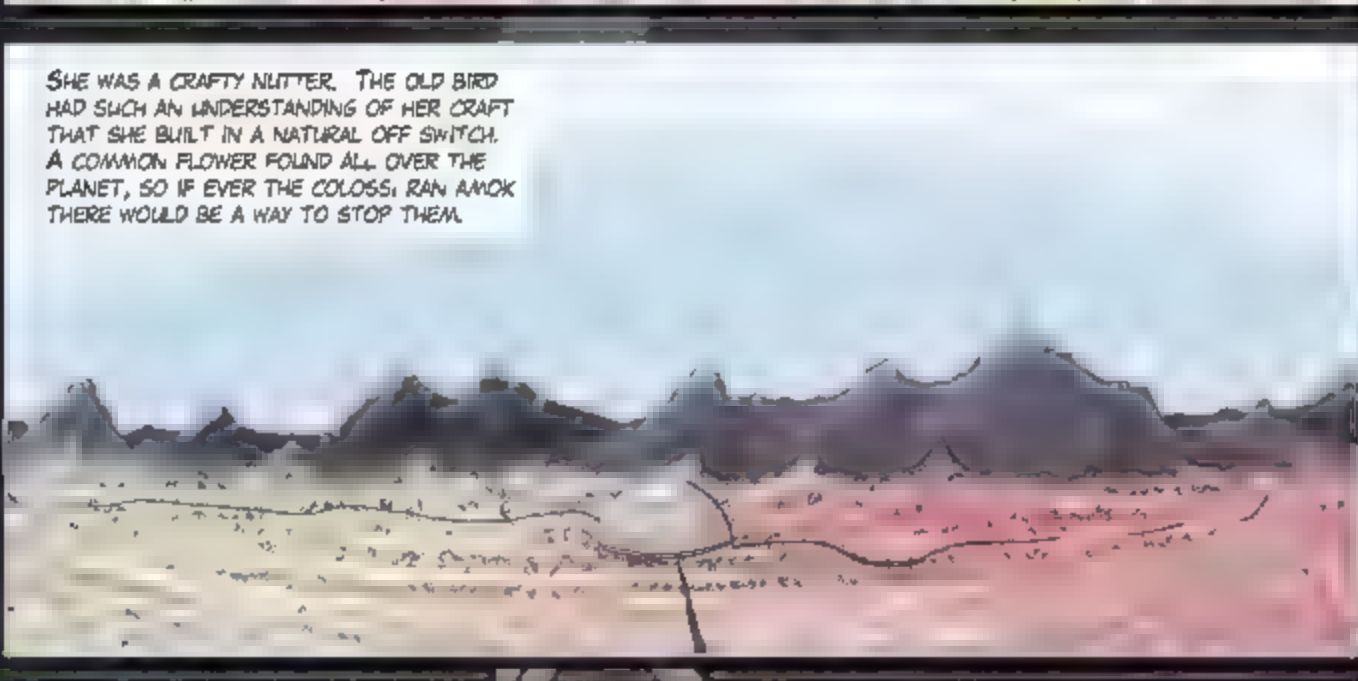
AND...
WE'LL YOU'VE SEEN
WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF
UNDER YOUR OWN RESTRAINT JUST
IMAGINE THAT POTENTIAL, IN A
COMPLETELY UNLEASHED
FRENZY



IT IS ALMOST
A RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT
TO SEE IT



SHE WAS A CRAFTY NUTTER. THE OLD BIRD
HAD SUCH AN UNDERSTANDING OF HER CRAFT
THAT SHE BUILT IN A NATURAL OFF SWITCH.
A COMMON FLOWER FOUND ALL OVER THE
PLANET, SO IF EVER THE COLOSSI RAN AMOK
THERE WOULD BE A WAY TO STOP THEM.



DAISIES!

MOTHER WAS ALWAYS VERY ELEGANT WITH HER SOLUTIONS. THE BEAN WAS LOOKING FOR A PEACE GESTURE TO THE WORLD TO STABILIZE HIS CAMPAIGN.

MOTHER WAS NOT GOING TO LET THE BEAN HAVE US WITHOUT SOMETHING IN RETURN. SO SHE SPOKE UP, THE BEAN MUST HAVE THOUGHT SHE FINALLY WENT MAD.

SHE HAD ALREADY WORKED A MIRACLE WITH THE GENE SEQUENCES AND WE WERE A FEW MONTHS FROM COMPLETION. SO SHE SUGGESTED A SECOND MIRACLE.

SHE WOULD USE THE LARGEST DESERT ON THE PLANET AS THE FLOWERBED TO PLANT HER MIRACLE. TWO FIELDS FILLED THE GIHO-RAW DESERT. THE WORLD WAS STRUCK DUMB OVER THE COURSE OF TWO WEEKS AS THE DESERT WENT THROUGH ITS METAMORPHOSIS. LIKE THE PAINTERBUSH OF GOD, THE LAND WAS CAST WITH AN IVORY TO SATIN RED SIGNATURE ONE HALF DAISIES, THE OTHER TULIPS.

TWO COMMON FLOWERS ENGINEERED AT THE GENETIC LEVEL TO GROW ANYWHERE AND BE COMPLETELY EDIBLE. NOT JUST A FEW FLOWERS, A BOUQUET WOULD JUST BE A SCIENTIFIC BREAK THROUGH.

CAN YOU COMPREHEND THE SCALE OF IT?

OF COURSE YOU WOULD IF YOUR MEMORIES CAME BACK.

EIGHT MILLION, TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
SQUARE MILES OF FLOWERS. A GIANT
SWATH OF COLOR ACROSS THE PLANET
AS IF TO SAY TO THE UNIVERSE, WE ARE
HERE, WE UNDERSTAND.

IT WAS THE LAST PLACE
YOU WERE CONSCIOUS.

I HAD BEEN BACK MANY TIMES
SUITED UP AND SEALED AWAY
FROM THEM. EVEN NOW I CAN
FEEL THOSE FLOWERS. I CANNOT
COMPREHEND WHAT THAT CON-
CENTRATION COULD DO.

WELL...
I AM BEGINNING
TO UNDERSTAND
NOW.

WHEN THE
WORLD BEHELD THAT
MONOLITHIC FIELD THE
BEAN SAID-

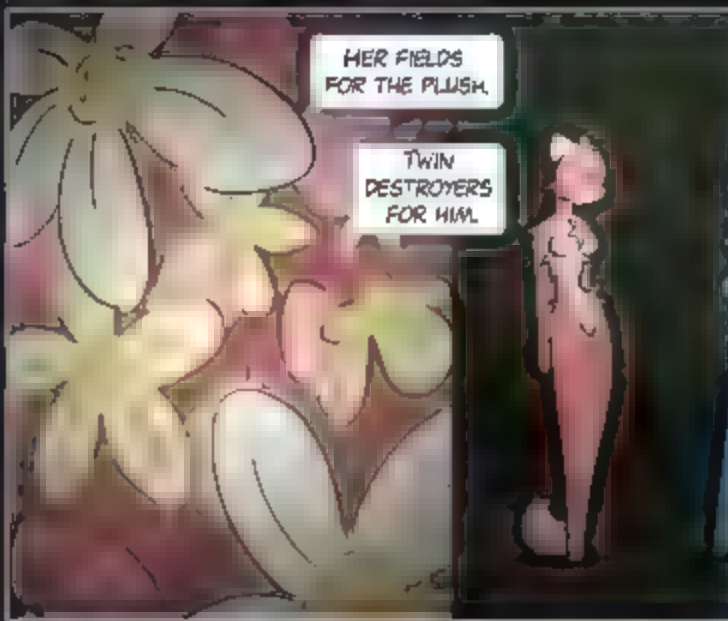
EAT AND
YE SHALL BE FULL
HARVEST IT AND
NEVER SHOULD THE
WORLD GO HUNGRY
AGAIN.

MANNA FROM
THE HAND OF THIS MAN,
THE PLUSH CRIED.

IT SOLIDIFIED
HIS POSITION.

HE HAD
BEEN APPLAUDED
AND HANDED THE KEY
TO THE WORLD, HIS
DEAL WITH ANETTEA
COMPLETE.

OF COURSE
THE BEST RESEARCHERS
IN THE WORLD TRIED TO
DECONSTRUCT IT RIGHT UP
UNTIL THE BIG FIREBALL THEY
WERE STILL TRYING TO
FIGURE IT ALL OUT



HER FIELDS
FOR THE PLUSH.

TWIN
DESTROYERS
FOR HIM.

IF WE WERE THE PERFECTION
OF MOTHER'S ART, THAT FIELD
WOULD BE HER MASTERPIECE,
BUT WHAT SHE DID NEXT...

A NEW WORD WOULD NEED
TO BE CREATED TO ENCOMPASS
WHAT THE BEAN HAD FORCED
HER TO DO FOR AN ENCORE.



THE STUFFED.



THE BEAN USED
MOTHER TO STEAL
THE UNIVERSE'S SECRETS.
THE GODS, OR GOD LOST THE
BLUEPRINTS TO THE CREATION
MYTH. THE BEAN NEARLY
HAD CONTROL OF EVERY
LIVING SOUL ON
THE PLANET.



HOW
MUCH DO YOU
REMEMBER?

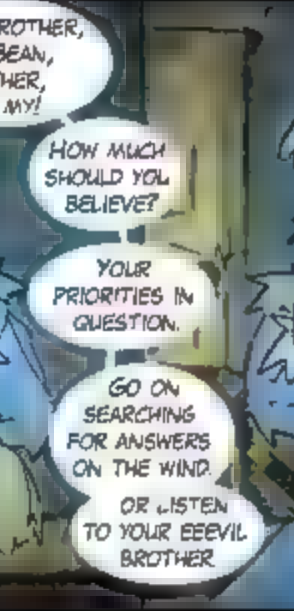
I NEVER
FORGOT



I KNOW
WHAT YOU MAY
BE THINKING.



CRAZY BROTHER,
THE BEAN,
MOTHER,
OH MY!



HOW MUCH
SHOULD YOU
BELIEVE?



YOUR
PRIORITIES IN
QUESTION.

GO ON
SEARCHING
FOR ANSWERS
ON THE WIND.

OR LISTEN
TO YOUR EEEVIL
BROTHER



BUT I DO
DIGRESS.



THAT'S IT,
WE'RE GENETIC
EXPERIMENTS?



NOOOO,
NOT REALLLY



WEEE,
AHHH...



ITS A
LITTLE MORE
COMPLICATED
THAN THAT



WHAT
ARE WE?

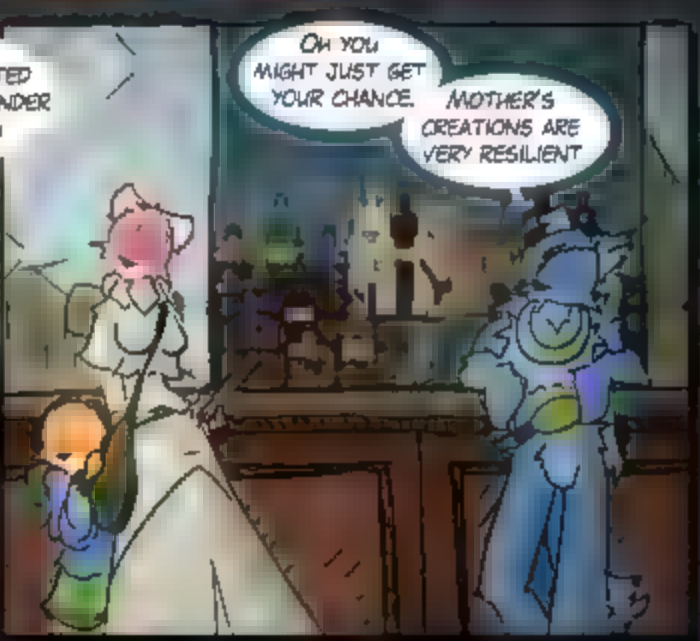


ALONE ON
THIS SMOLDERING
ROCK HANGING
IN SPACE.

THE ONLY
TWO OF OUR KIND
LEFT BEHIND

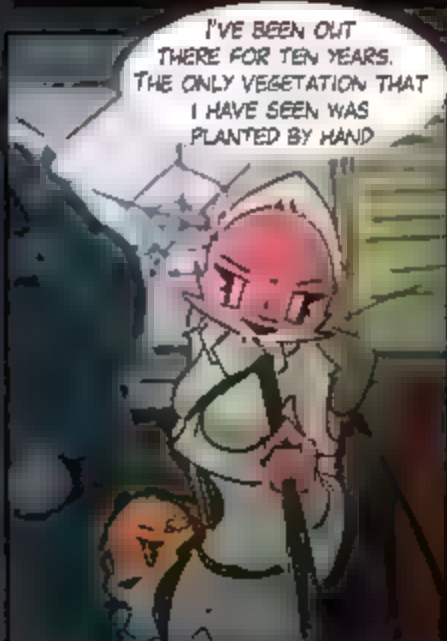


YOU DISGUST ME.
IF THAT FIELD STILL EXISTED
I WOULD HOLD YOUR HEAD UNDER
PETALS UNTIL WE BOTH
DROPPED DEAD

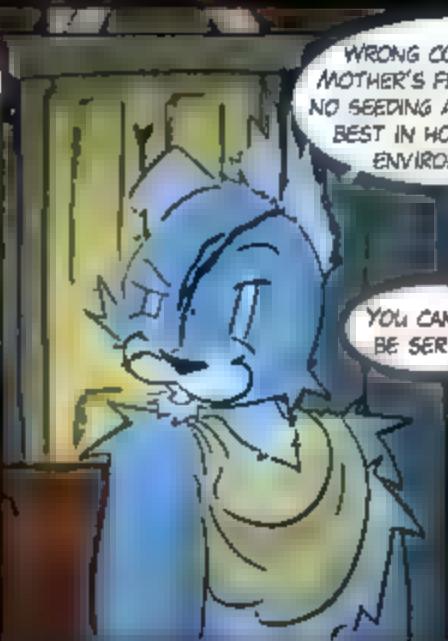


OH YOU
MIGHT JUST GET
YOUR CHANCE.

MOTHER'S
CREATIONS ARE
VERY RESILIENT



I'VE BEEN OUT
THERE FOR TEN YEARS.
THE ONLY VEGETATION THAT
I HAVE SEEN WAS
PLANTED BY HAND



WRONG CONTINENT
MOTHER'S FLOWERS NEED
NO SEEDING AND GROW THE
BEST IN HOSTILE 'ARID'
ENVIRONMENTS.



YOU CANNOT
BE SERIOUS

IT'S SLOW RIGHT NOW, THE BLAST AND SUBSEQUENT COLD YEARS HAVE BEEN HARD ON IT. BUT THE ROOTS HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO DIG DEEP BEFORE. I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT IT WILL BREAK THROUGH THE ASH LAYER WITHIN THE YEAR. AND THEN GREEN, A MIGHTY SWATCH OF IT UPON THIS ASH GREY CANVAS.



AND THEN
BOOM!



IVORY, PINK,
A SEA OF
FLOWERS.



A FITTING SIGN
FOR THE REBIRTH OF
A SPECIES. CAN YOU IMAGINE
WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN IT IS
FOUND BY THE MASSES
AGAIN? THIS FIELD OF
SELF SUSTAINING
MANNA

IT WILL BE
THE SECOND COMING
OF THE PLUSH. FRESH
FOR THE SHAPING

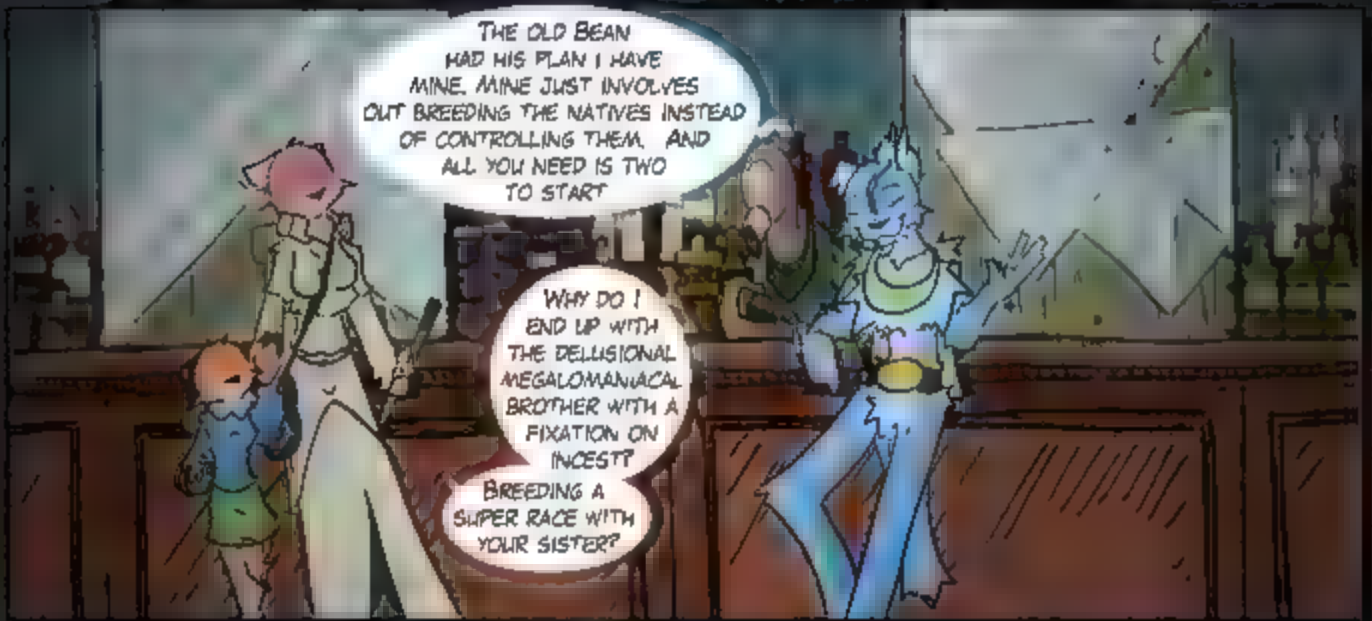
OH DEAR GOD
NO. NOT MORE WORLD
LEADER TALK

LEADER
NOT A CHANCE.
I MAY SOUND AS IF
I WANT TO TAKE OVER
THE WORLD,

I JUST DON'T
WANT TO PUT FORTH
THE EFFORT. I'M KINDA
LAZY AT HEART

I WILL
PROBABLY WAIT
SIXTY OR SO YEARS
FOR CIVILIZATION TO
CATCH UP AND PULL ITSELF
TOGETHER. MAKE A BIT
OF EFFORT, GET MY
ASS IN A NICE SEAT
AND LIVE OUT MY
LIFE IN LUXURY

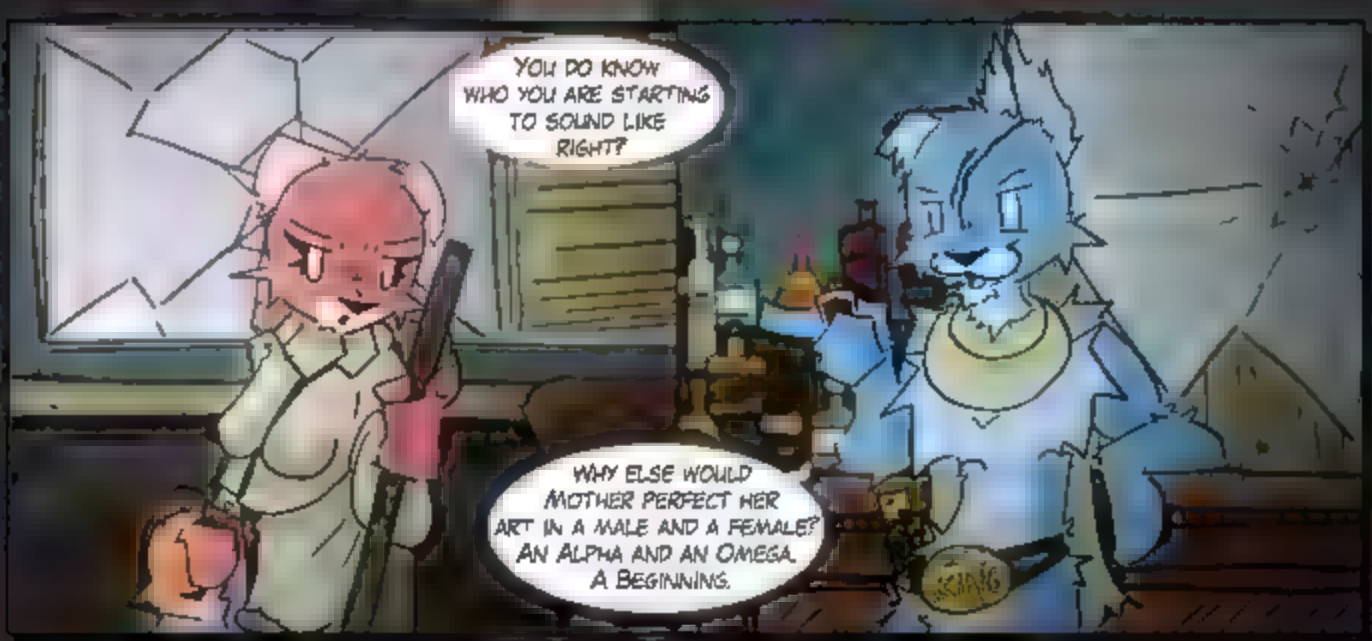
BULLSHIT



THE OLD BEAN
HAD HIS PLAN I HAVE
MINE. MINE JUST INVOLVES
OUT BREEDING THE NATIVES INSTEAD
OF CONTROLLING THEM. AND
ALL YOU NEED IS TWO
TO START

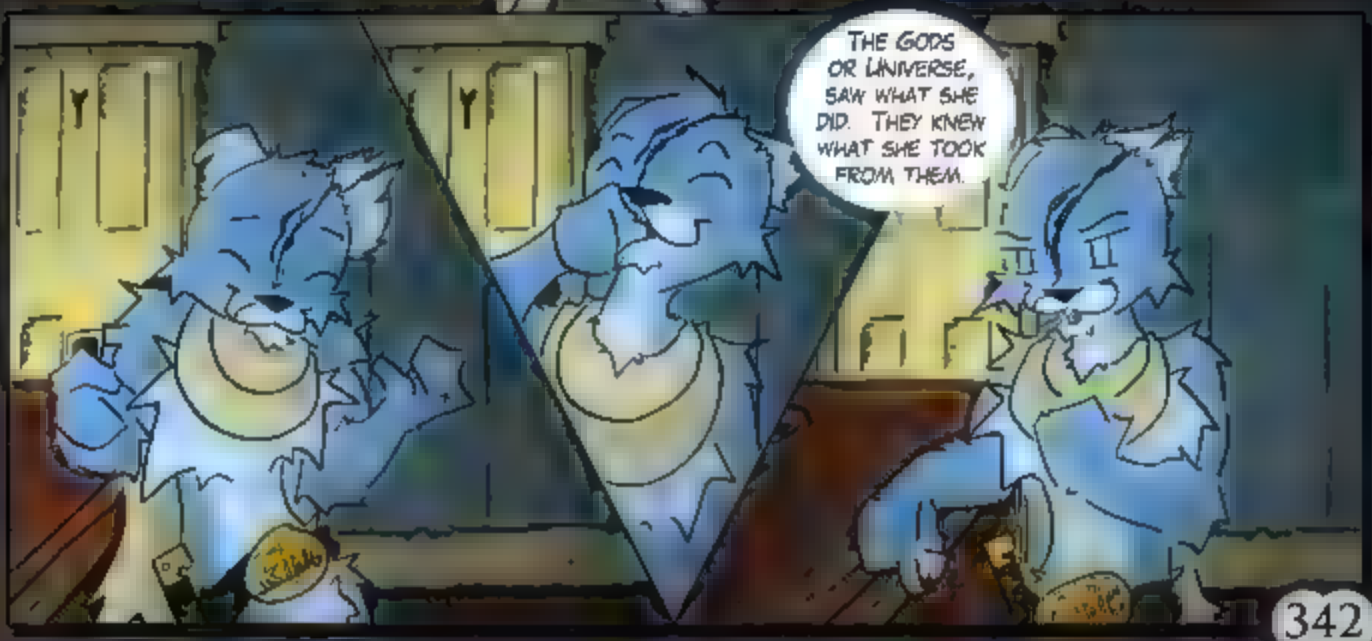
WHY DO I
END UP WITH
THE DELUSIONAL
MEGALOMANIACAL
BROTHER WITH A
FIXATION ON
INCEST?

BREEDING A
SUPER RACE WITH
YOUR SISTER?



YOU DO KNOW
WHO YOU ARE STARTING
TO SOUND LIKE
RIGHT?

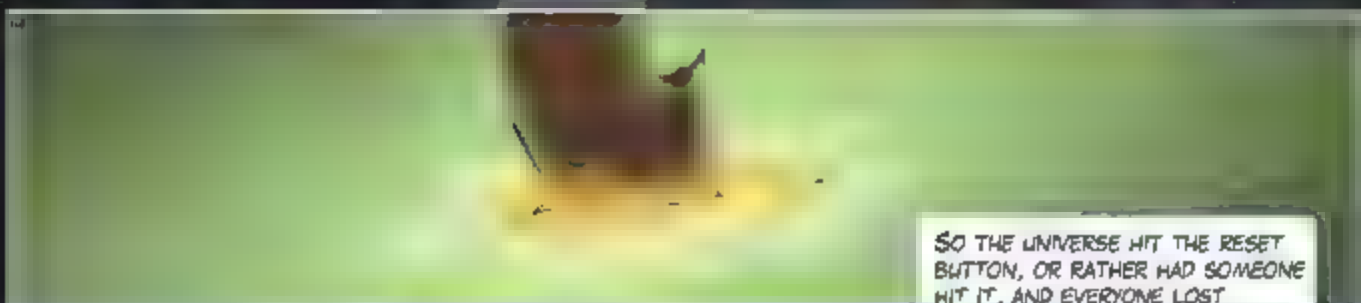
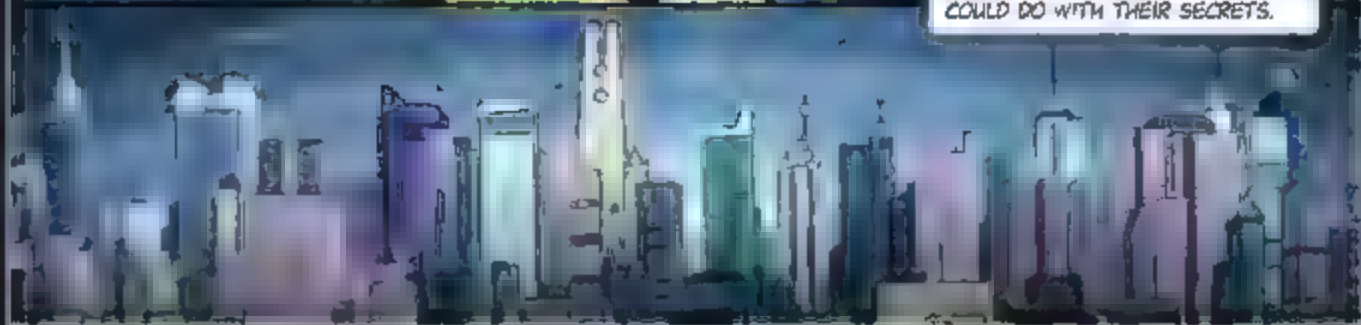
WHY ELSE WOULD
MOTHER PERFECT HER
ART IN A MALE AND A FEMALE?
AN ALPHA AND AN OMEGA.
A BEGINNING.



THE GODS
OR UNIVERSE,
SAW WHAT SHE
DID. THEY KNEW
WHAT SHE TOOK
FROM THEM.



THE BEAN SHOWED THEM WHAT HE
COULD DO WITH THEIR SECRETS.



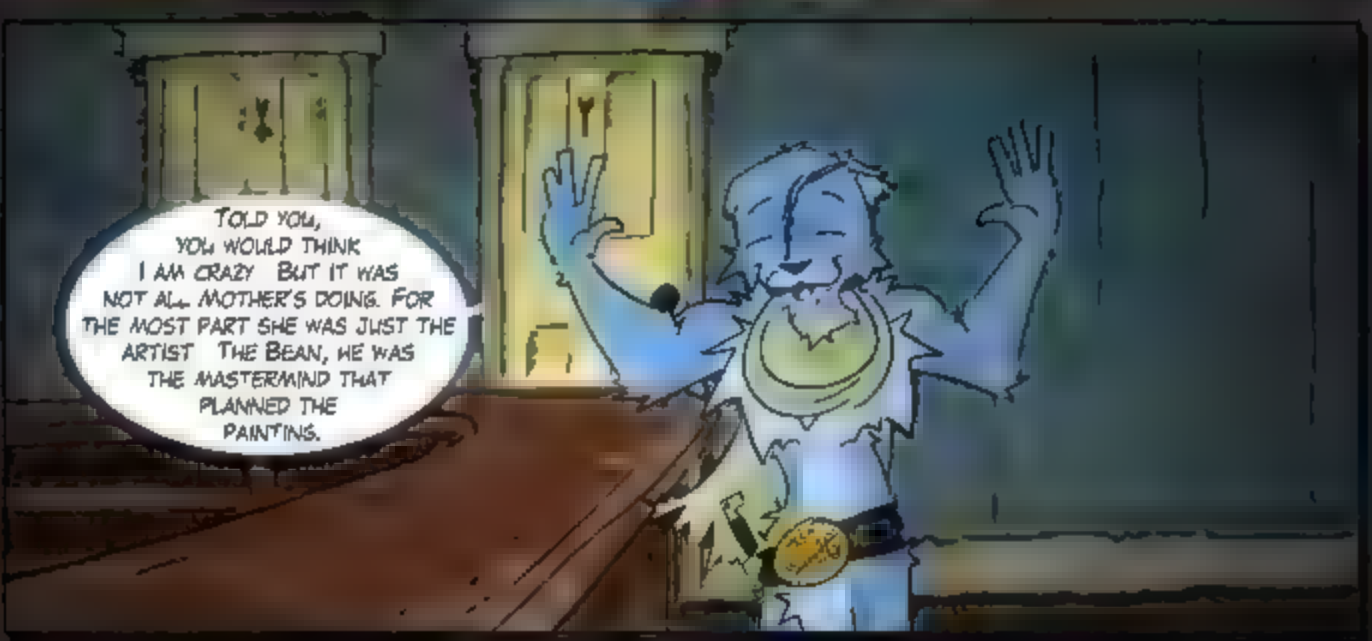
SO THE UNIVERSE HIT THE RESET
BUTTON, OR RATHER HAD SOMEONE
HIT IT, AND EVERYONE LOST



EVERYONE ACCEPT
MOTHER. HER LEGACIES
LIVE ON. HERE WE ARE, WE
NEED TO BEGIN OUR LEGACY. WE
NEED TO COMPLETE HER SIGNATURE
ON THE DEED TO THE UNIVERSE.
WE ARE HER TRUE HEIRS.



SERIOUSLY,
YOU GOT THE OLD
MAN BEAT THAT HAS
GOT TO BE THE STRANGEST
THING ANYONE HAS EVER SAID
TO ME. THEY MUST HAVE A
NAME FOR YOUR
CONDITION.



TOLD YOU,
YOU WOULD THINK
I AM CRAZY BUT IT WAS
NOT ALL MOTHER'S DOING. FOR
THE MOST PART SHE WAS JUST THE
ARTIST THE BEAN, HE WAS
THE MASTERMIND THAT
PLANNED THE
PAINTINGS.



FOR A MOMENT
I WAS HOPING YOU
WOULD HAVE SOME
SORT OF USEFUL
INFORMATION.

OH DEAR SISTER I KNOW
EVERYTHING YOU COULD
POSSIBLY WANT TO KNOW.
YOUR FAVORITE DINNER
IS OSE PICATTA.

YOUR FAVORITE DRINK
IS ICED TEA WITH EXTRA
LEMONS.

YOUR NAME IS...



I HAVE A DEAL.



NO DEAL,
I WALK.



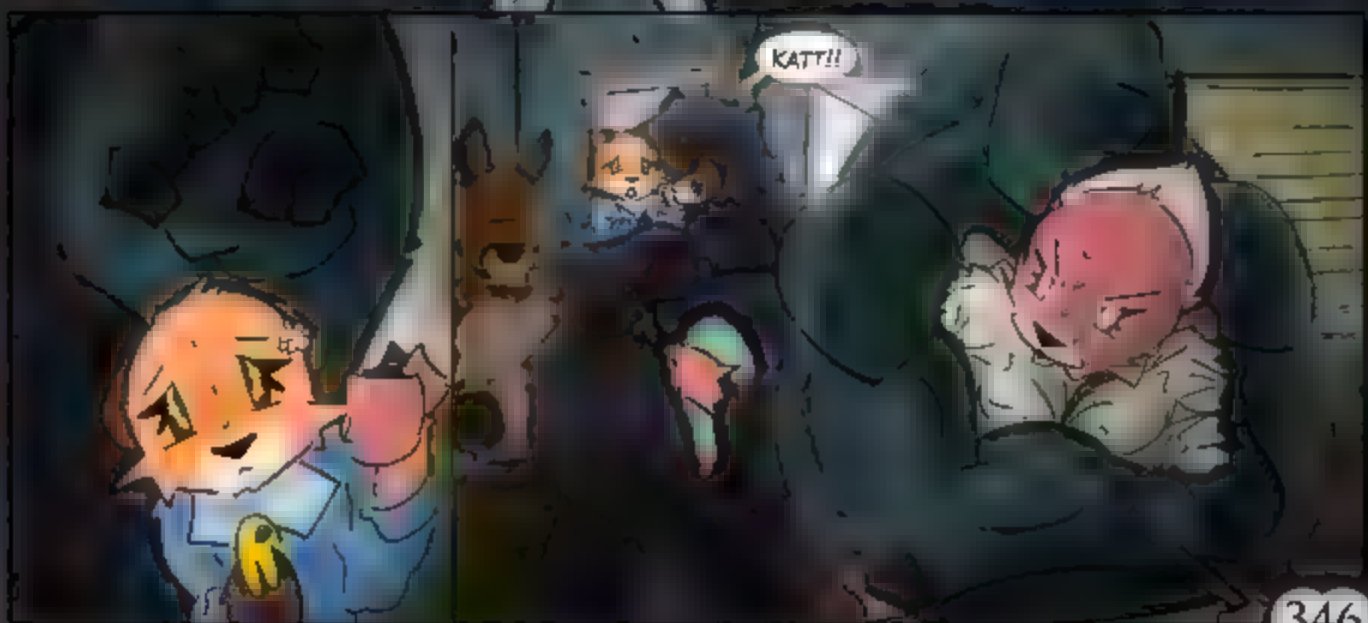
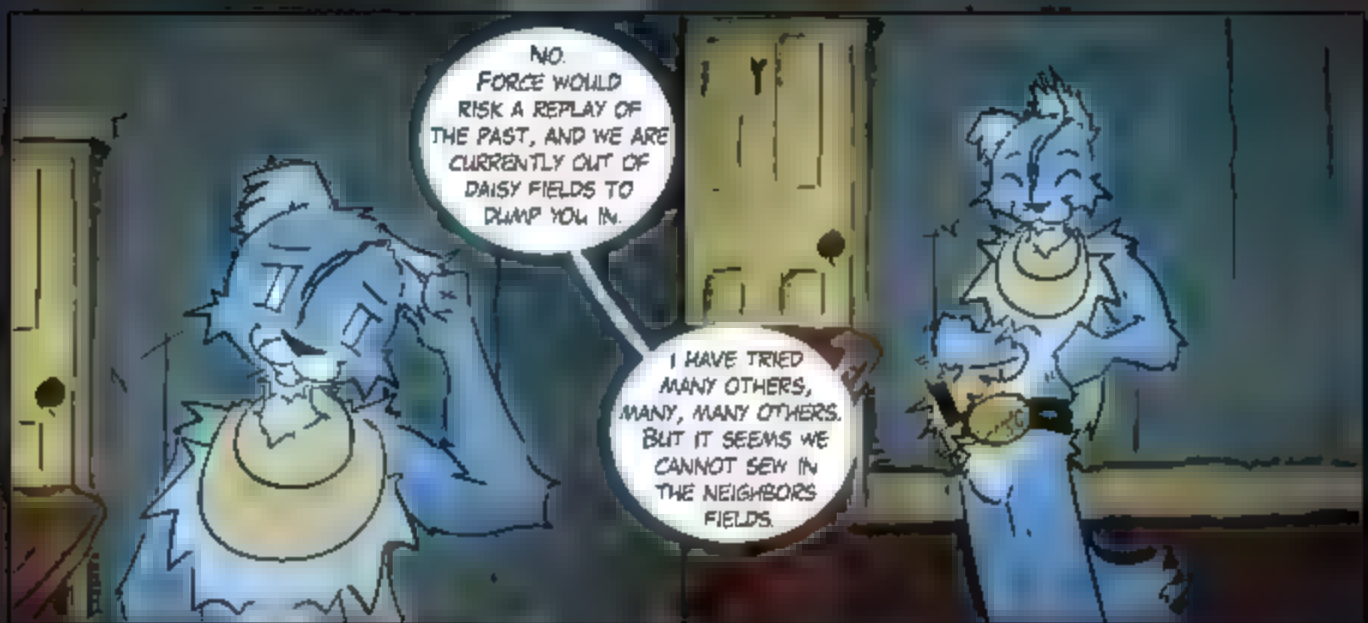
I JUST
WANT A CHILD,
AND THEN YOU
CAN BE ON
YOUR WAY.



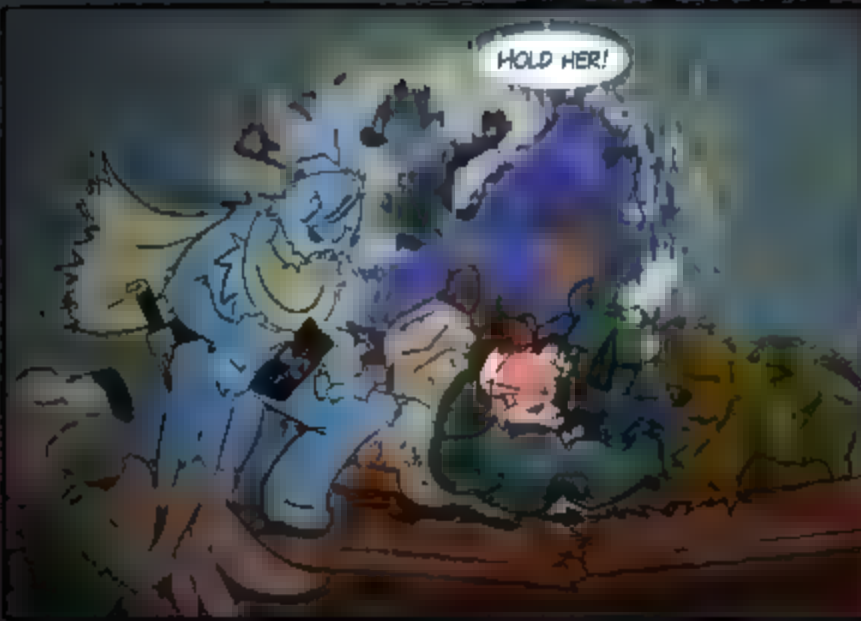
DON'T MAKE
ME TAKE CONTROL
OF OUR DESTINY
SISTER.

WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK I WOULD
SLEEP WITH YOU LET ALONE
LEAVE A CHILD WITH YOU?
YOU WILL NEVER TAP THIS
WHILE I AM STILL
BREATHING.









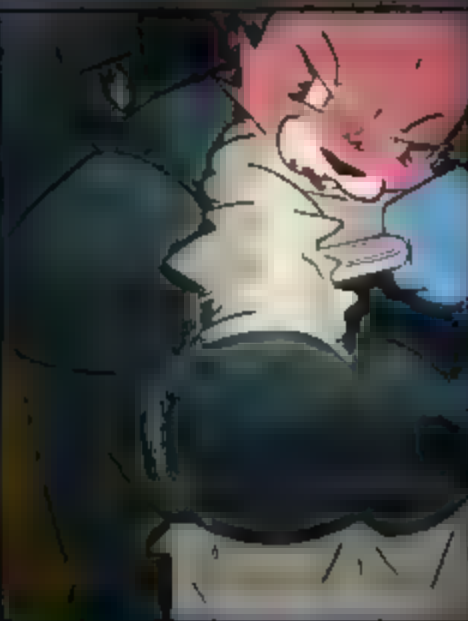
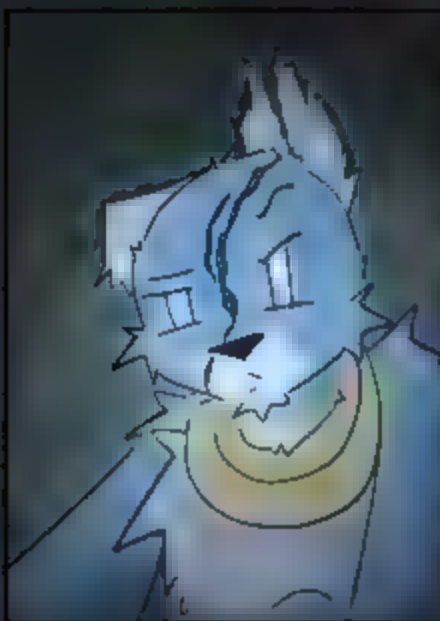
HOLD HER!

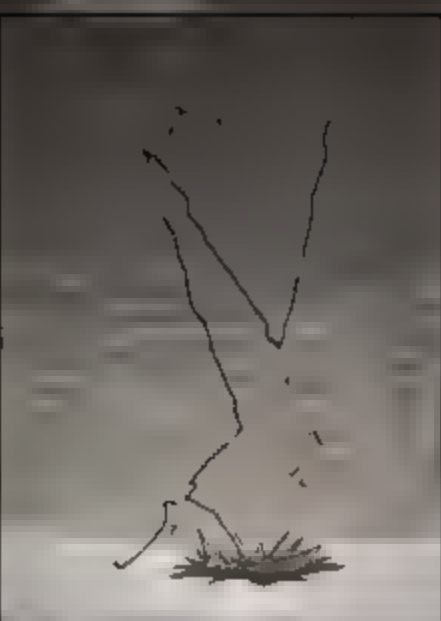
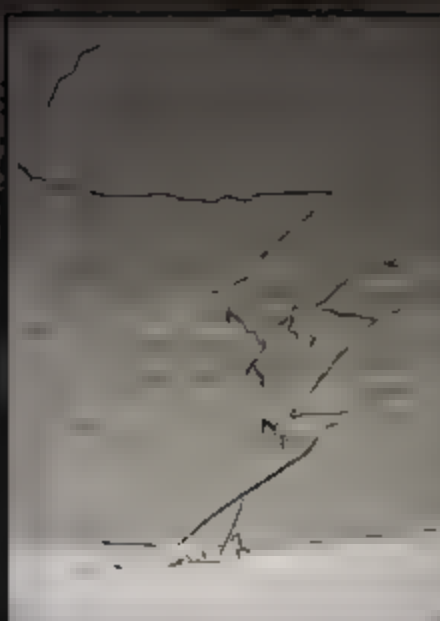


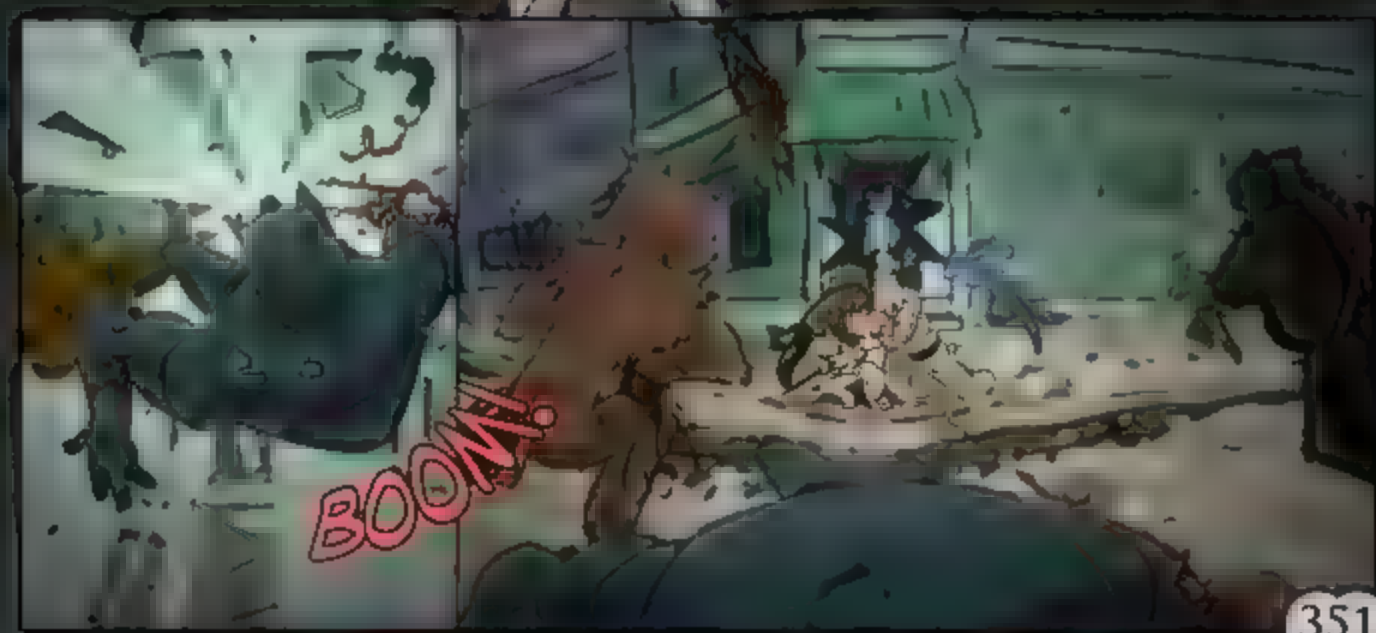
I SAID HOLD
HER! I ONLY
HAVE ONE!



CCRIACK!!!









GET THE ENGINE
MOVING NOW, YOU ARE
ALREADY LATE. TELL OZ COLE
WILL BE ALONG AFTER HE
HAS FINISHED HIS
BUSINESS HERE



WEERRRNT! WEERRRRNT!

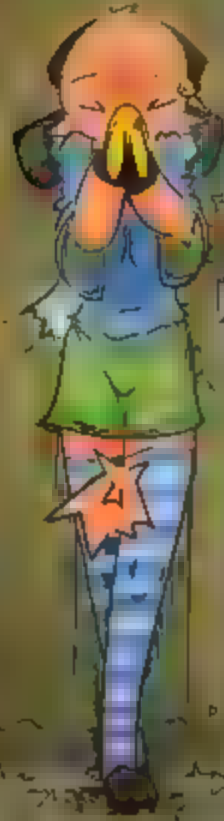
KATT

TAKATA

TAKATA

TAKATA

KATT WILL
BE BACK SOON.
KATT WILL COME FOR
ME. KATT WILL BE BACK
SOON. KATT WILL
COME FOR ME.



TAKATA

TAKATA

TAKATA

TAKATA

TAKATA

TAKATA

TAKATA



SO WEAK.
THAT BITCH.



CHILD
HEAR ME.

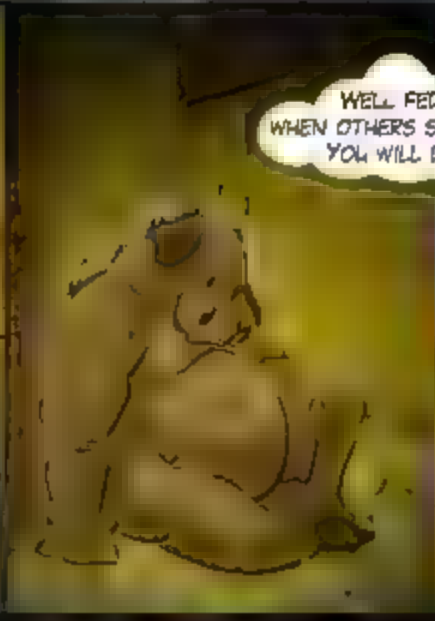


WHERE...
I NEED.



GIRL!

NOTHING!
TO THE MAGGOT
FILLED DEPTHS WITH
THAT PINK WHORE.



WE'LL FED
WHEN OTHERS STARVE..
YOU WILL DO.



YESSSSS
SELFISH BITTER
GLUTTON...

ROOAAAARRR!

KATT!
KATT!!

LET ME OUT!
KATT WILL COME
FOR ME!

SHUT UP
YOU SNIVELING
BRAT

BY THE LOOKS
OF WHAT HAPPENED IN
TOWN, YOUR 'CAT' IS DEAD
OR WILL BE AFTER EVERY
ONES HAD THEIR FUN.

NO ONE
IS COMING
FOR YOU.

NO ONE IS
COMING FOR ANY
OF US.

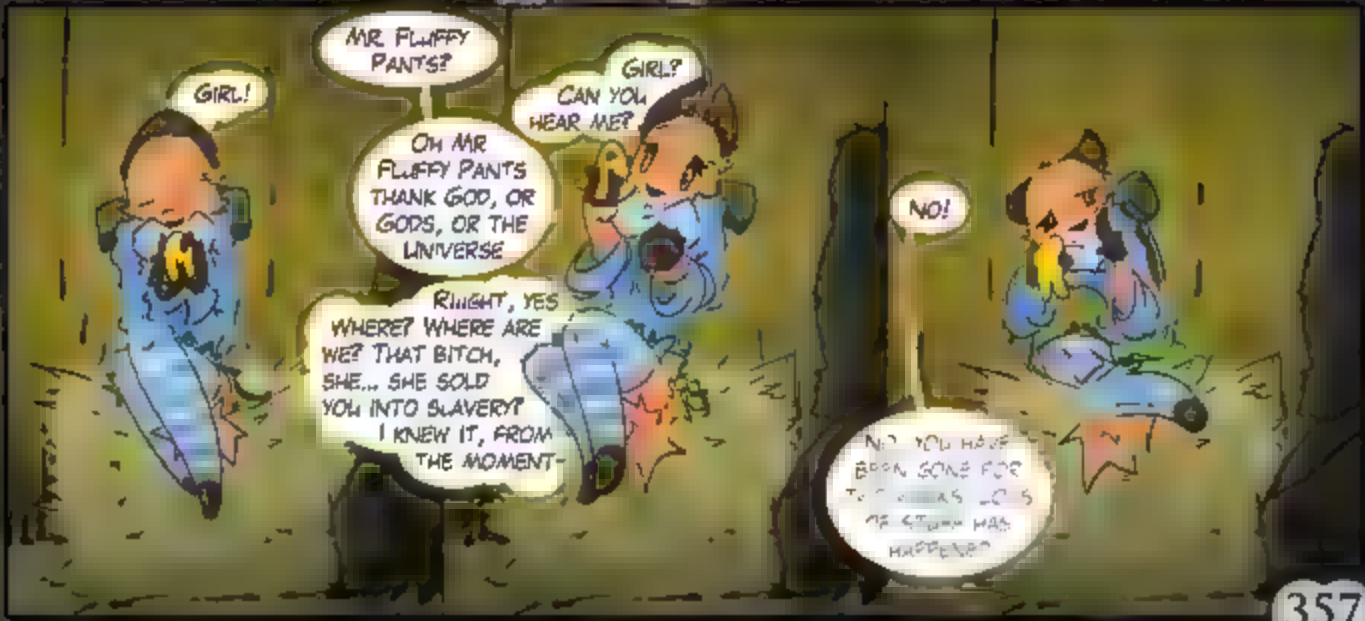
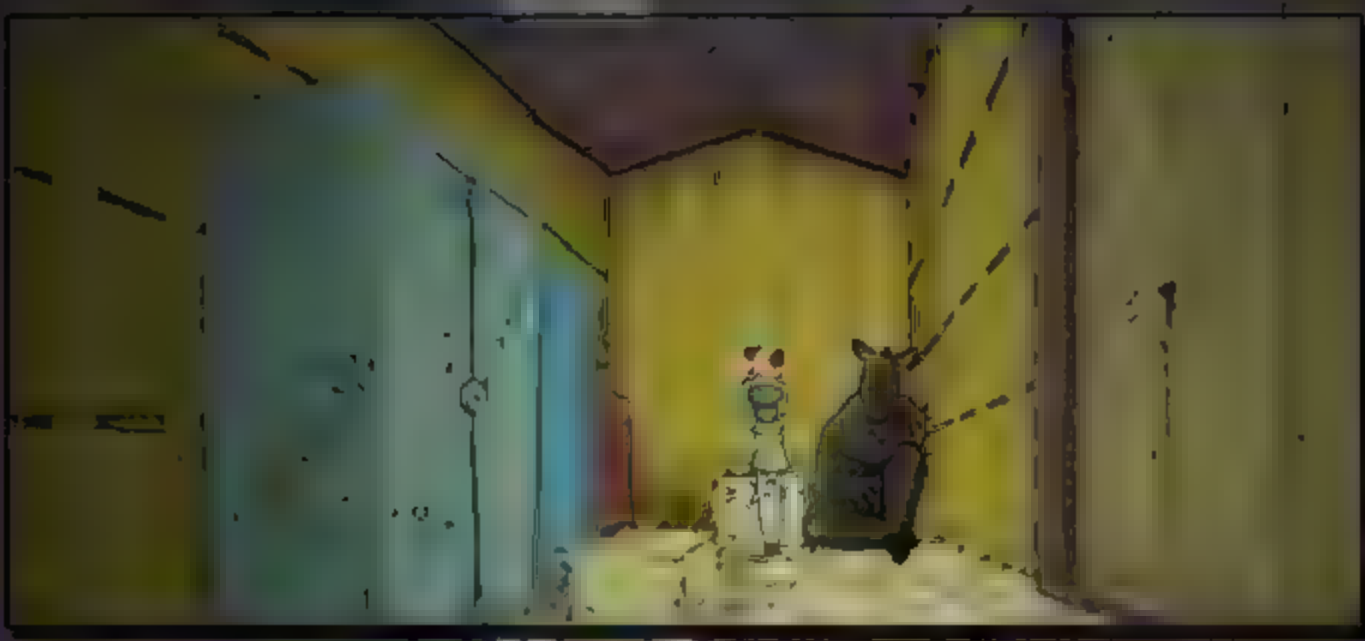
WE ARE
DAMNED

YESSSS.
YES! THAT'S
THE STUFF,
LET THOSE
TEARS GO

NO!

SHE WILL
COME FOR ME.
YOU DO NOT KNOW
WHO SHE IS.

THE CONVOY
WET THEMSELVES
AND CRY LIKE PUPS AT THE
MERE SIGHT OF HER. SLAVERS
WHISPER HER NAME IN FEAR THAT
SHE WILL HEAR. SHE DOES NOT
KNOW WHEN TO STOP,
DOES NOT SLEEP, AND
KATT ALWAYS KEEPS
HER PROMISES.





LOTS OF STUFF?
STUFF, I WOULD
HARDLY CALL BEING
LOCKED IN A CART
WITH ROTTING
SLAVES, STUFF

WHAT SHE
DIDN'T TELL
YOU?

SHE TOLD ME

SHE TOLD
ME THAT YOU WENT
AWAY FOR A BIT SO SHE
COULD TAKE CARE
OF ME

DID SHE REALLY
WHAT HAVE YOU TWO
BEEN UP TO ALL
THIS TIME?

YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN.
WHERE WERE YOU
ALL THIS TIME?
NOT EVEN A
GOODBYE!

WE WENT TO
A BIG CHURCH WHERE
EVERYONE WAS FRIENDS
AND WERE REALLY
HAPPY

KATT HELPED
FRIAR PEKIN PUT THE
WHEEL BACK ON
HIS CART

THEN HE INVITED
US TO HIS, TO THE
CHURCH WHERE ABBOT
MAURICE STAYS

YOU WENT
TO A CHURCH?

YES.
WE HAD A
BATH WITH COMBS
AND BRUSHES AND
SMELLY SOAPS.

BUT IT HAS
BEEN A WHILE AND
I DON'T SMELL LIKE
ORANGES ANYMORE. OH
AND WE GOT TO DRINK
CLEAR WATER!

YOU DO SEEM TO BE IN
A MORE MANAGEABLE
CONDITION THAN LAST
I SAW YOU. I SEE YOU
WENT SHOPPING AS WELL.

SOUNDS
FABULOUS.

AND THEN KATT
AND I WENT FOR A WALK
AND HAD BURTOLD'S MUMMAS
CINNAMON SWIRL
HAPPY BREAD

THE NUNS FOUND
THEM FOR ME AREN'T
THEY NICE? I GOT TO SEE
ABBOT MAURICE'S GARDEN. IT'S
GREEN! I EVEN GOT TO
EAT CARROTS
OUT OF IT



WELL WEREN'T YOU JUST A HAPPY MOTHER
DAUGHTER COUPLE. CLEANING UP,
GARDENING, SHOPPING, CHURCH.
YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU TWO HAD
DECIDED ON LAST NAMES ALREADY.
DID YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT ME?

YES, I WANTED
YOU TO COME BACK
AND HAVE FUN WITH US.
BUT YOU... YOU JUST
STAYED QUIET

SO YOU TWO ARE JUST
BEST BUDS NOW WITH NO
TIME FOR MR. FLUFFY PANTS?
ALL THOSE YEARS
COMFORTING YOU IN THE
DARK AND IT TAKES TWO
WEEKS TO FORGET
ABOUT ME?

IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT

WELL IT LOOKS LIKE
ONCE AGAIN WHEN YOU ARE
LEFT ON YOUR OWN AND I AM
THE ONLY ONE LEFT WHERE IS
YOUR BUDDY NOW?

SHE PROMISED
SHE WOULD COME
FOR ME!

OH YEAH, RIGHT
BECAUSE SHE FREES
THE SLAVES AND ALWAYS
TELLS THE TRUTH.

YES
SHE DOES!

SHE'S
A LIAR

MR. FLUFFY
PANTS HOW
DARE YOU

YOU TAKE
THAT BACK
OR I.

OR YOU'LL
DO WHAT?

I'LL DROP
YOU OFF
THE TRAIN.

SHE IS
A
LIAR.



WHERE DID
SHE SAY I
WENT?



I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HEAR YOU.
AWAY WAS IT? AWAY DO YOU
KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

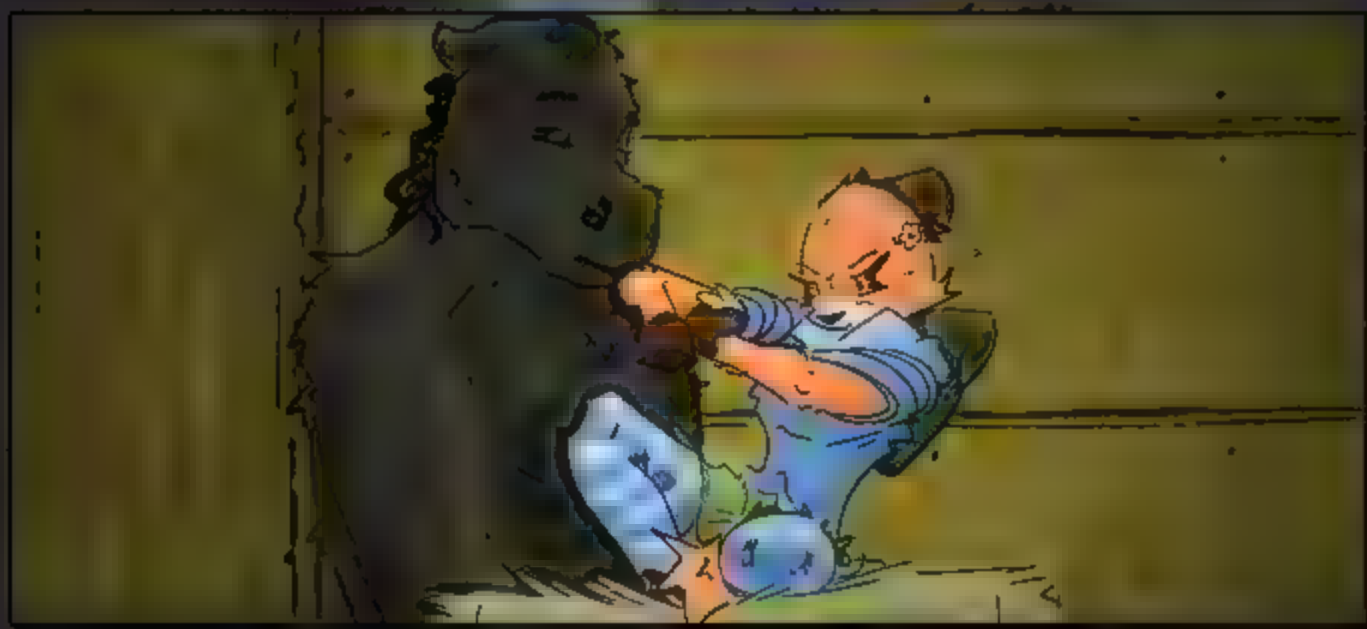
DO YOU WANT TO
KNOW? BECAUSE REGARDLESS
I AM GOING TO TELL YOU.

SHE TRIED
TO MURDER ME.

YOU LIE

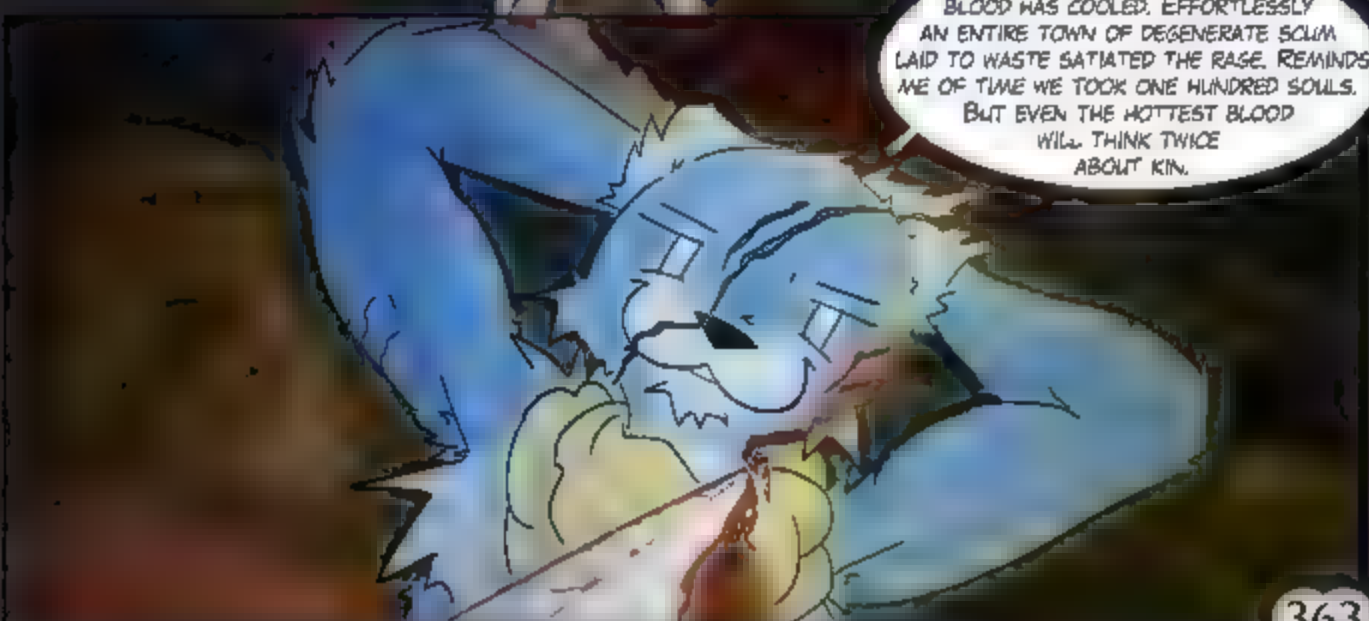


ONE NIGHT WHILE YOU
WERE ASLEEP SHE ATTACKED ME.
I FOUGHT HER OFF AND ESCAPED INTO
THE DARK BETWEEN WORLDS. I LAID
THERE TRAPPED IN THE DARK ALL
THIS TIME HEALING.
WAITING FOR YOU TO
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
ONLY NOW DO I EVEN
HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH
TO TALK TO YOU FOR
A FEW MOMENTS.
I AM TIRING QUICKLY

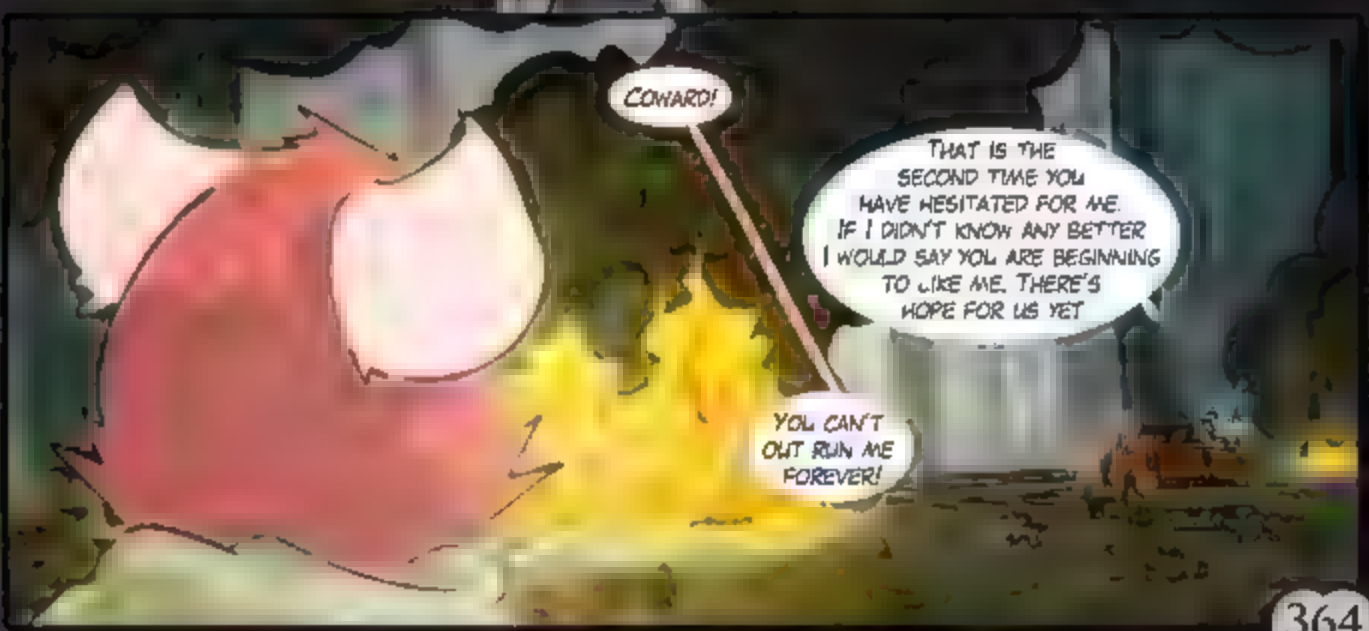
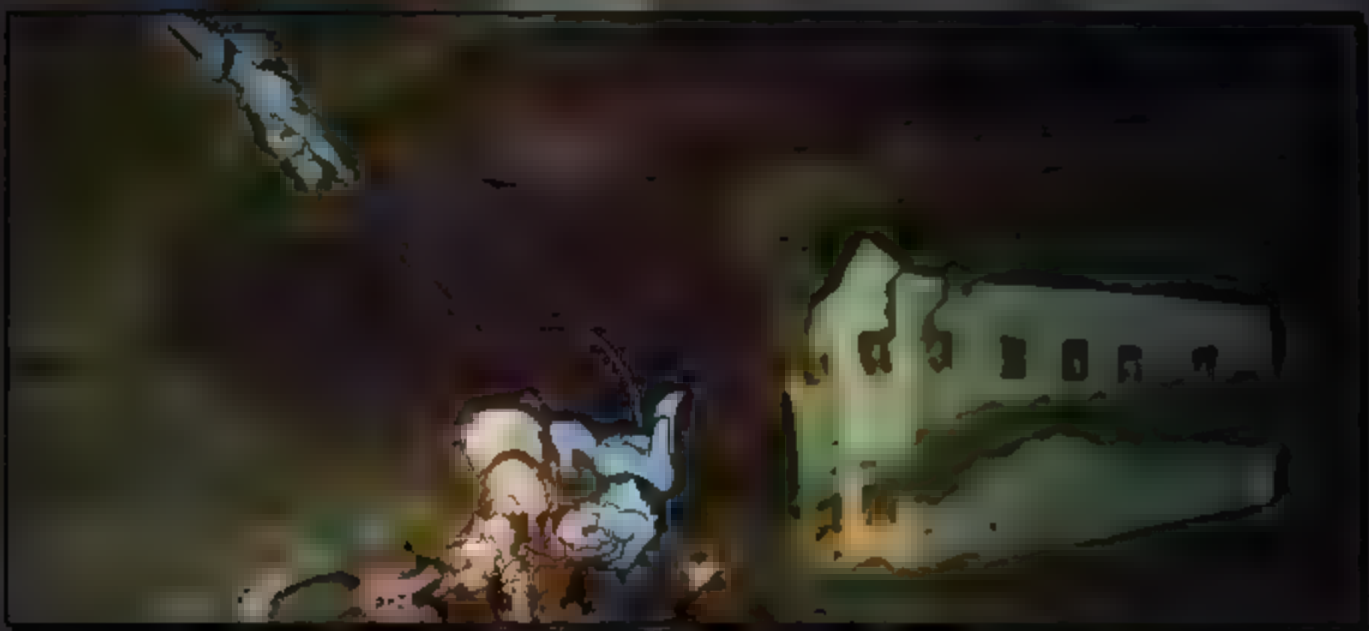


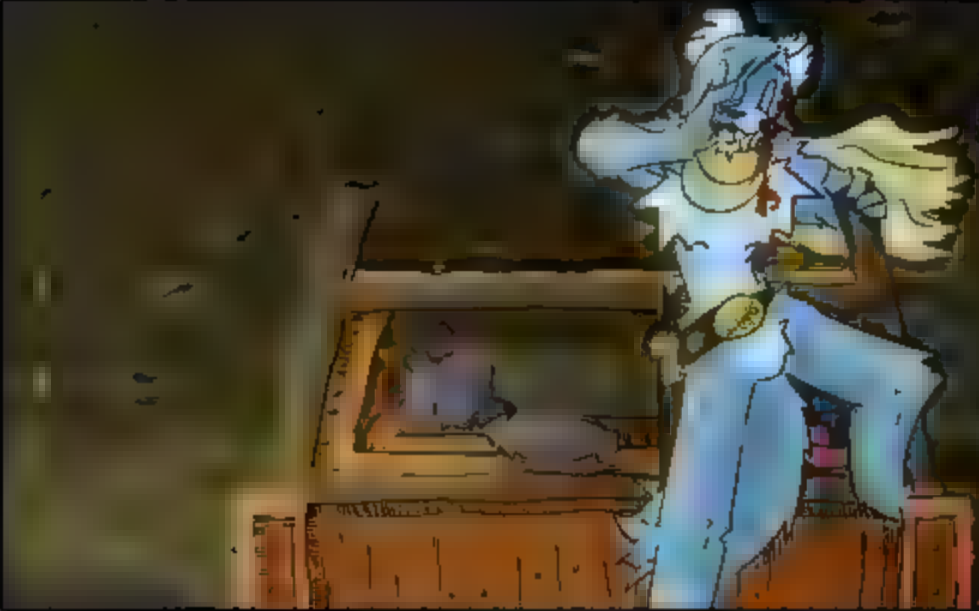


COME ON SISTER,
FINISH IT



NOW, YOUR BOILING
BLOOD WAS COOLED. EFFORTLESSLY
AN ENTIRE TOWN OF DEGENERATE SCUM
LAID TO WASTE SATIATED THE RAGE. REMINDS
ME OF TIME WE TOOK ONE HUNDRED SOULS.
BUT EVEN THE HOTTEST BLOOD
WILL THINK TWICE
ABOUT KIN.





DON'T HAVE TO.
AT DAWN THAT TRAIN
WILL BE BACK I AM SURE YOU
WILL NOT HAVE A PROBLEM
CONVINCING THE ENGINEERS
TO TAKE YOU TO
LITTLE ALICE.

YOU DON'T
GET TO SAY
HER NAME!

OR YOU CAN
WASTE TIME
CHASING ME.

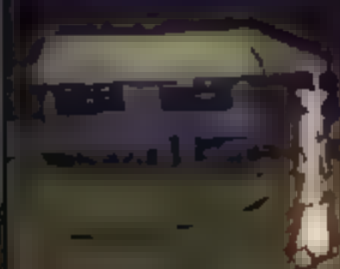
YOU ARE
LUCKY I HAVE
BETTER THINGS TO
DO WITH MY TIME
THAN SKIN YOUR
MANGY HIDE.

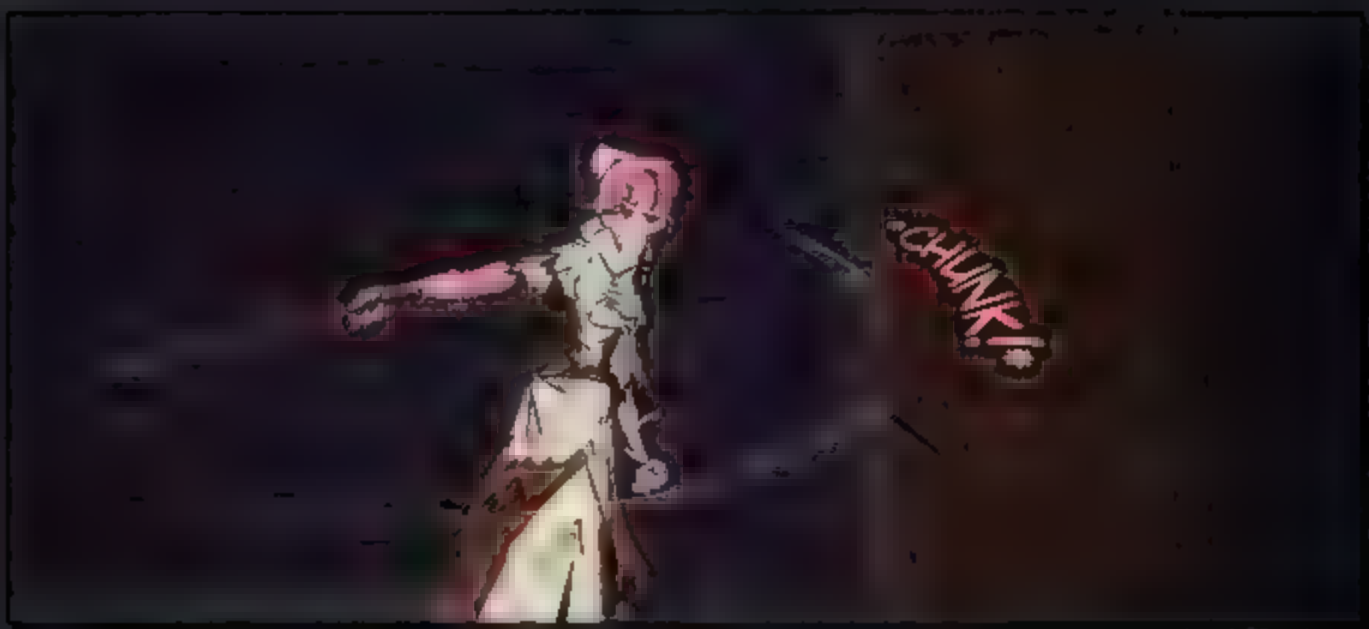
IF I FIND THAT
LITTLE GIRL HURT,
OR THE UNTHINKABLE,
I WILL COME FOR YOU AND THERE
WILL BE NOTHING ON THIS PLANET
THAT WILL STOP ME FROM
TEARING YOUR HEART FROM
YOUR CHEST AND
DEVOURING IT WHILE
YOU WATCH!

I WILL REACH
INTO THE SKY AND
PULL A STAR FROM
THE HEAVENS DOWN
UPON YOUR HEAD
IF NEEDS BE!

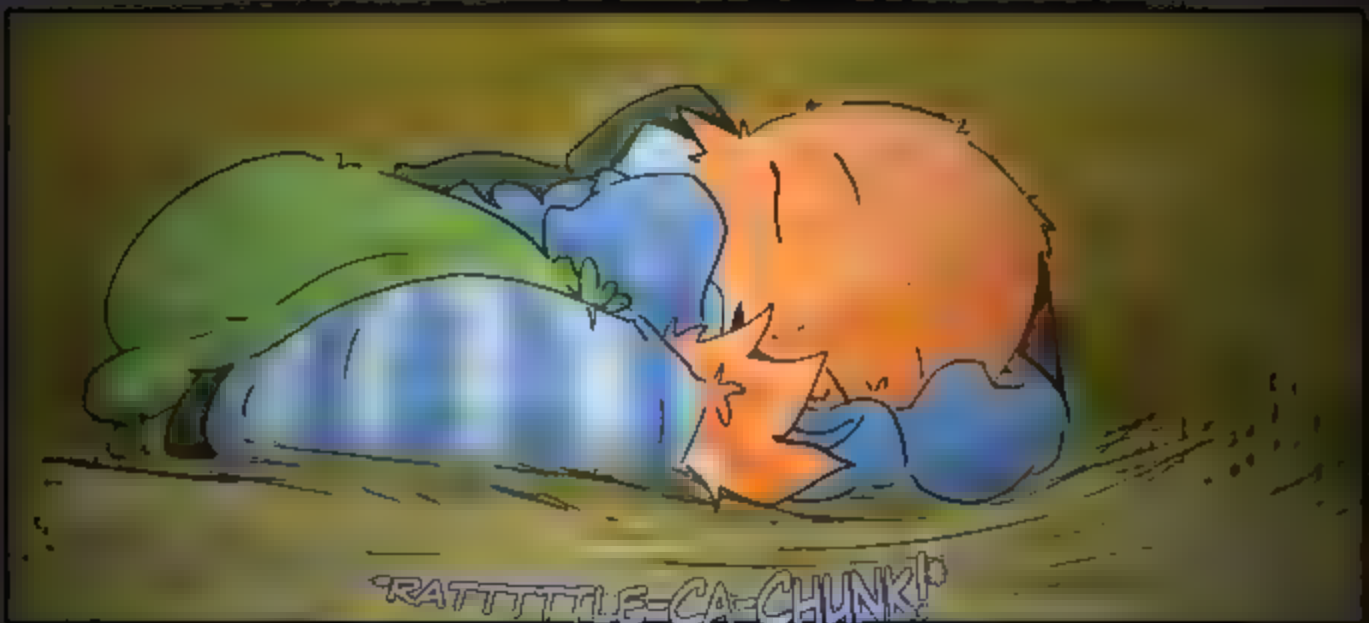


SO GOOD TO
SEE YOU AGAIN
SISTER. WE HAVE
DO THIS AGAIN
SOMETIME!







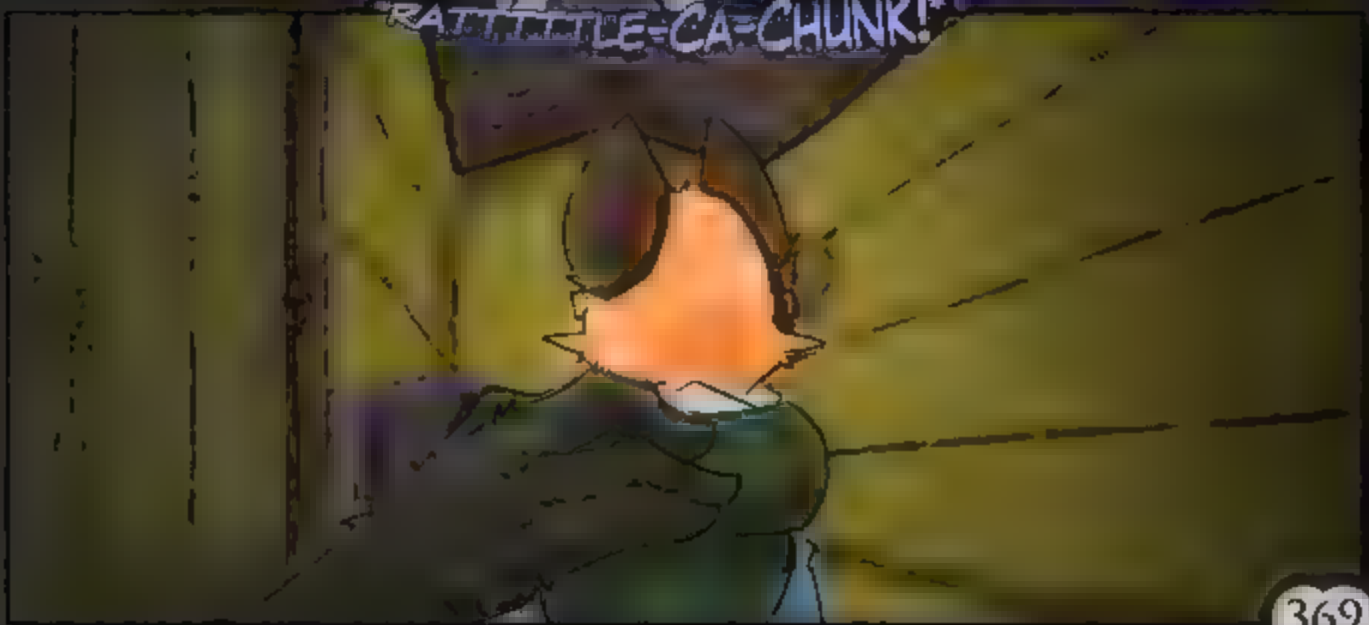


RATTITLE-CA-CHUNK!

SCREEEEEEEEEEEE-CACHUNK!



RATTITLE-CA-CHUNK!





EASY
I WILL NOT
HARM YOU.



WHATS
HAPPENING?

THE TRAIN
IS SLOWING. WE
ARE AT THE COALITION
SLAVE FARM
GOLDEN ROAD

COALITION
SLAVES?

YES WE
ARE ALL
SLAVES.



KATT FREES
SLAVES!

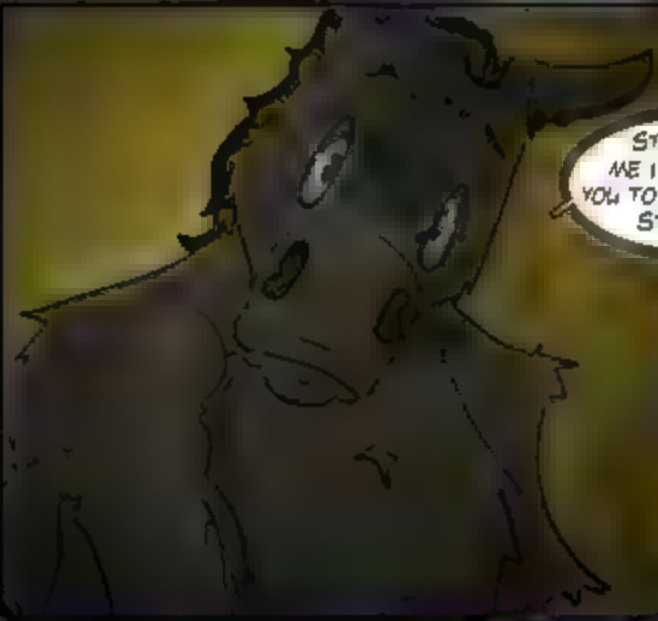
IS THAT
YOUR MOTHER?

YES...
NO...
SHE PROTECTS
ME LIKE A MOTHER.
PROTECTED ME



DO NOT BE
DOWN. WITH CONVICTION
ENOUGH TO TELL OFF A SLAVE
TEN TIMES YOUR SIZE I AM
SURE YOUR MOTHER
IS FINE.

YES..



STICK WITH
ME I SHALL SEE
YOU TO SAFETY I AM
STALWORT



I'M ALICE



PLEASE TO
MEET YOU ALICE.
EVERYTHING WILL
BE OKAY



SHE'S YOUR MOTHER NOW?
HOW YOU HAVE FED INTO
THIS SAD FANTASY I
WILL NEVER KNOW

HUSH

DO NOT HUSH ME
LOOK WHERE WE ARE!
SLAVES! DO YOU KNOW
HOW LONG A STUFFED
DOLL LASTS ON A
WORK FARM? I'LL
BE DEAD IN A WEEK

IT'S ALWAYS
ABOUT YOU! WHAT
ABOUT ME I AM
TERRIFIED!

ARE YOU
OKAY ALICE?
YOU NEED TO
BE QUIET

SORRY

AND NOW YOU'RE
FRIENDS WITH A ONE
ARMED MOUNTAIN, YOU
SURE REBOUND FAST
IS THIS YOUR NEW
DADDY? WHO'S NEXT?
UNCLE SLAVE BOSS?





ALREADY GIVEN
UP ON THE LIAR?



HER ANGER
CANNOT SUSTAIN ME
HERE. IT HAS TO BE AN OUTSIDE
EMOTION AMPLIFYING
HER MISERY.



NOTHING HERE
BUT BROKEN SOULS.
NO HOPE, NO DREAD, JUST
APATHY RESIGNATION TO THEIR
MASTERS. JUST WHEN I WAKE UP
I FIND MYSELF IN A SITUATION
WHICH WILL CAUSE
ME TO STA-



SHE'S NOT
A LIAR.



STALWORT
WELCOME BACK.



THANK YOU
CAPTAIN SIR.



ONE OF THE
ENGINEERS SAID
THEY TOOK ON AN
EXTRA PASSENGER
IN COLLAND.
THIS IT?



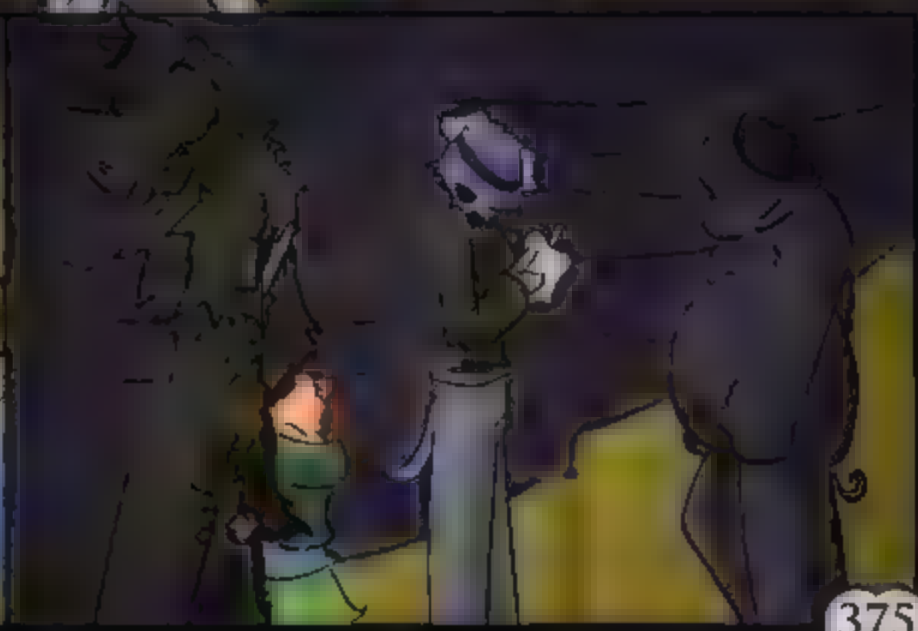
SORRY, THAT WAS
CAR FOUR CAPTAIN. NO
ONE IN MY CAR WAS UNACCOUNTED
FOR. THIS IS TINA, SPECIAL PICK UP
FOR THE MASTERS
LAUNDRY STAFF

WELL TINA
YOU'LL BE EXPECTED
THROUGH THE DOORS ELBOWS
DEEP BEFORE DAWN.
EVERYONE WORKS.

EVERYONE
WORKS.



EVERYONE
WORKS.





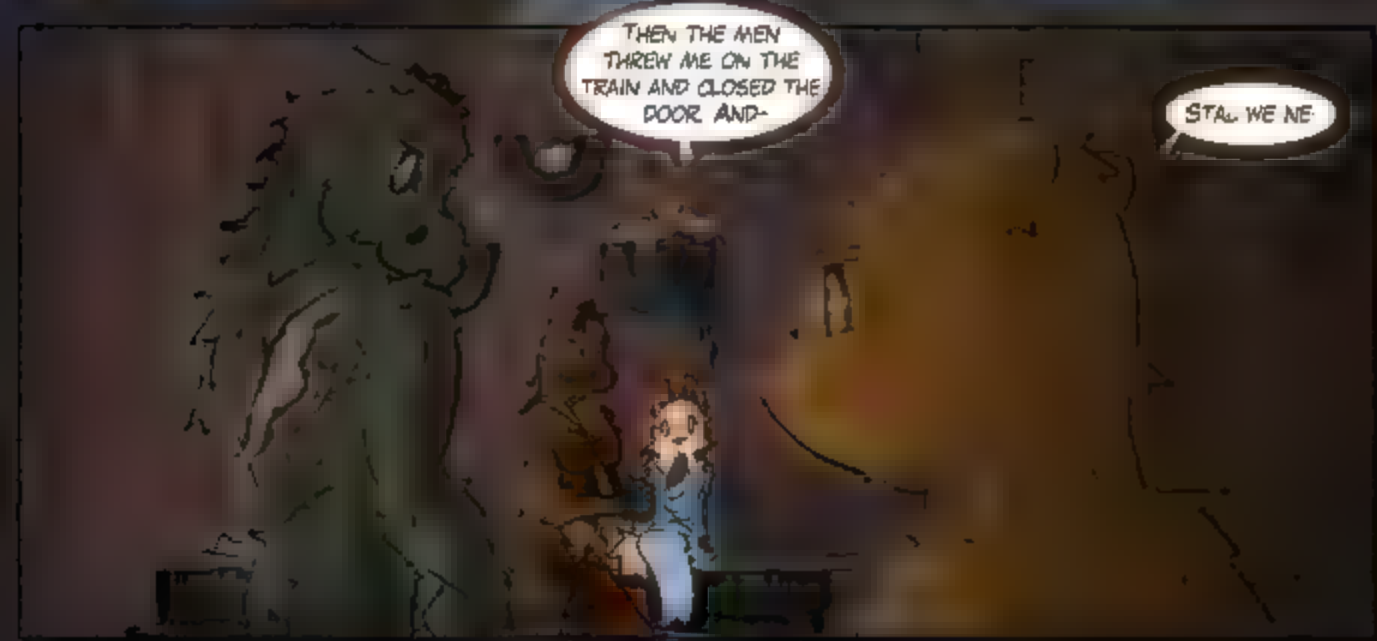
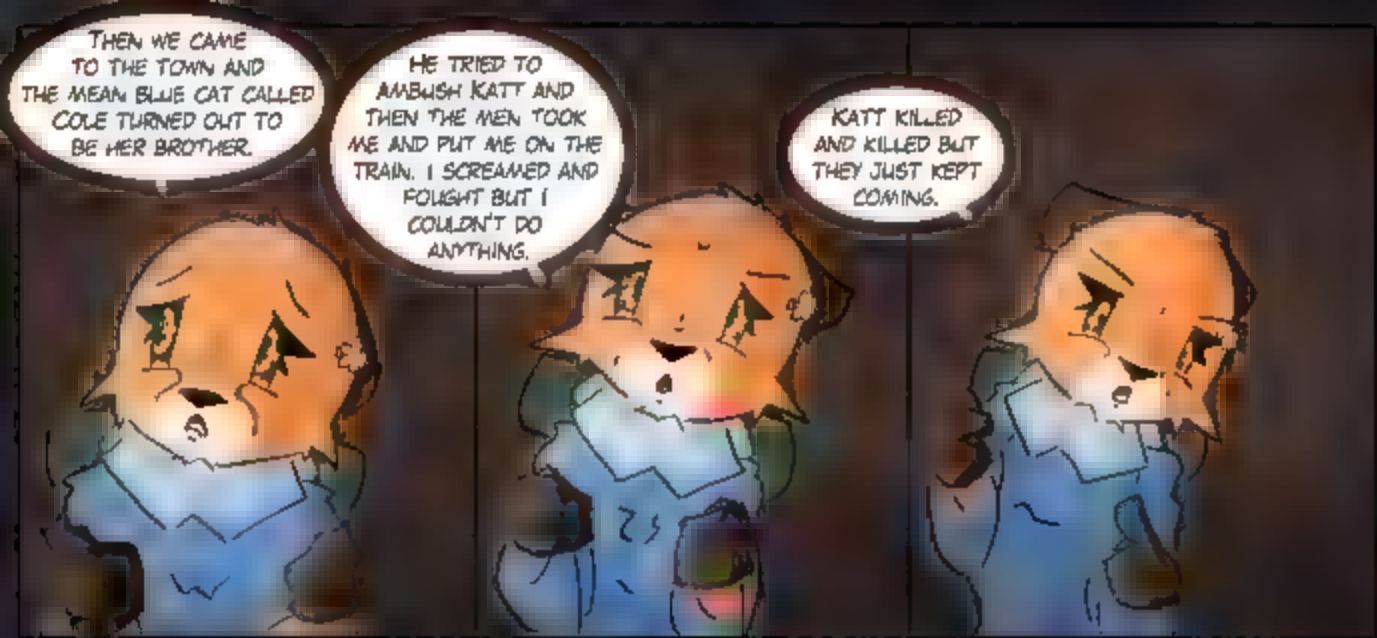


STELLA THIS
IS ALICE, WHO WE
WILL KNOW
AS TINA

OH MY
POOR BABY!

HOW IN THE
WORLD DID A PRECIOUS
THING LIKE YOU END UP ON
THAT NASTY TRAIN?

KATT AND I
WERE OUT OF FOOD
SO WE FOLLOWED THE
TRACKS THROUGH
THE WASTES.





GO ON BABY,
THEY PUT YOU ON
THE TRAIN?

AND THE TRAIN
LEFT WITHOUT HER!

A MEAN MAN
ON THE TRAIN YELLED
AT ME BUT I JUST
SHOUTED BACK



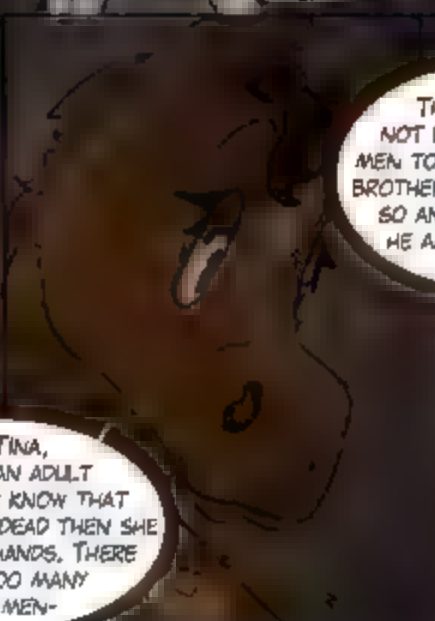
THEN MR. STALWORT
FOUND ME, HE WAS BIG
AND SCARY AT FIRST BUT
THEN HE TURNED
OUT TO BE NICE

I KNOW WHAT
YOU ARE ALL THINKING.
SHE IS NOT DEAD



OH BABY
I KNOW WE-

SHE'S NOT DEAD,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
TREAT ME LIKE A CHILD.
YOU DON'T KNOW KATT



NO.
THERE WERE
NOT ENOUGH BAD
MEN TO STOP HER. HER
BROTHER EVEN THOUGHT
SO AND THAT'S WHY
HE AMBUSHED HER

SHE WILL
COME FOR ME,
SHE WILL
SAVE ME



OK TINA,
BUT AS AN ADULT
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT
IF SHE IS NOT DEAD THEN SHE
IS IN THEIR HANDS. THERE
WERE TOO MANY
MEN-



AND THEN SHE
WILL SET ALL THE SLAVES
FREE. THAT IS WHAT
SHE DOES.



TINA IS RIGHT
WE SHOULD NOT GIVE
UP HOPE BECAUSE WE CANNOT
SEE THE OUTCOME. BUT
IT IS LATE AND WE
ARE ALL TIRED.

TINA FOR NOW
YOU HAVE TO PLAY
THE PART OF A SLAVE
YOU WILL BE REQUIRED
TO WORK

EVERYONE WORKS.

I CAN WORK
UNTIL KATT
COMES.

VERY GOOD,
STELLA WILL PUT
YOU TO BED. YOU WILL
BE UP EARLY, GET
SOME REST





WELL, WELL, WELL LOOK WHO HAS A HAPPY NEW FAMILY I GUESS YOUR FRIENDS ARE LIKE CLOTHES TO YOU, ONCE THEY GET BORING YOU GO FIND NEW ONES.

SHUT UP MR. FLUFFY PANTS. I TOOK YOU OUT SO WE COULD MAKE UP WHY ARE YOU BEING SO MEAN, I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.

I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS, UNTIL YOU LET THAT WHORE TRY TO KILL ME. NOT ONLY DID YOU TURN A BLIND EYE TO MY ATTEMPTED MURDER, BUT YOU WERE SEDUCED BY HER HONEYED PROMISES.

YOU ARE A LIAR KATT WOULD NEVER-

WHERE ARE YOU!? HOW DID YOU GET HERE!? YOU ARE A SLAVE NOW! OUT OF THE FRYING PAN AND INTO THE FIRE. YOU THOUGHT THAT RABBLE WAS BAD BACK HOME. HERE THEY STARVE YOU, AND AT THE SAME TIME TRY TO WORK YOU TO DEATH.

THESE ARE NICE PEOPLE. STALWORT HELPED ME.

IT'S A SLOW DEATH WORKING YOU UNTIL YOU ARE COMPLETELY USELESS, AT WHICH TIME YOU ARE SOLD. BUT THE USELESS ARE ONLY GOOD FOR TWO THINGS ROTTING IN THE GROUND, OR FOOD AND BEING FOOD, YOU'LL JUST END UP IN THE HANDS OF THE SAME BASTARDS YOU ESCAPED FROM.

SO YOU HAVE A FATHER FIGURE NOW.
CONGRATU-FUCKING-LATIONS. DO
YOU REALLY THINK HE HAS ANY SAY
AROUND HERE? HE HAS PROBABLY
SERVICED MORE GUARDS THAN YOU
HAVE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE. THE
BITCH, CURSE HER WHORE
HEART, IF SHE IS STILL LIVING
THEN SHE IS HIGH TAILING IT
IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. AS
FAST AS HER FAT ASS WILL
TAKE HER. SHE HAS NO
REASON TO COME BACK.

YOU ARE WRONG
MR. FLUFFY PANTS
SHE PROMISED ME SHE
WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME
KATT DOESN'T BREAK
PROMISES. SHE
LOVES ME

Y-

YOU'RE
WRONG.



DID SHE JUST
TELL YOU WHAT I
THINK SHE TOLD YOU?
THERE ARE RUMORS
COLLAND IS FINISHED,
DESTROYED BY

THE LAST I
SAW OF THAT SHIT
HOLE OF A TOWN WAS A
PINK SAWDGE MASSACRING
THE LOT OF THEM.

YOU CAN NOT
BE SERIOUS. THOSE
THINGS THAT ARE SAID
ABOUT HER ARE
JUST STORIES

THE WAY
ALI-TINA TALKS
ABOUT THIS "CAT"
MAKES ME QUITE CERTAIN
IT IS THE SAME WOMAN IN
THE RECENT RUMORS AND
STORIES COMING OUT
OF THE SOUTH.

IT CAN'T BE,
THAT WOMAN IS...
IS... CHAOS. SHE
DESTROYS EVERYTHING
AROUND HER.

THE SLAVES
SHE "FREES" ARE
JUST THE REMNANT OF
THOSE THAT MANAGED
TO STAY OUT
OF HER WAY

I CAN NOT
BELIEVE THAT
SWEET CHILD COULD
BE ASSOCIATED
WITH HER.

I THINK THAT
SWEET LITTLE GIRL
HAS A FEW ISSUES OF
HER OWN. ALL WE HAVE IS
RUMOR AND CONJECTURE.
WE CAN NOT JUDGE
A PLUSH ON
THAT ALONE

YOUR EYE
WITNESS
ACCOUNT?

I SAW THAT
PINK BLUR IN THE
MIDST OF A WAR BUT
AS TINA TELLS IT
SHE WAS PROVOKED
BY COLE.



WHAT IS
IT KUGU?

WHICH IS ENTIRELY
PLAUSIBLE, BUT TINA
ALSO SAID COLE WAS
HER BROTHER. THIS
I FIND HARDER
TO BELIEVE

MY PAST
CATCHING UP
TO ME .. TINA IS
MOST LIKELY RIGHT,
THEY ARE BROTHER
AND SISTER.

NOW SEE,
WHEN YOU CRINGE
AND ITCH YOUR SCAR IT
REALLY MAKES MY
BLADDER QUIVER.

LET'S JUST SAY,
IF TINA IS RIGHT, AND
THEY ARE WHO I THINK THEY
ARE... JUDGMENT DAY WILL
HAVE FELT LIKE A
POPCORN FART

WE'LL HAVE
TO CONTINUE
THIS LATER

OVERSEER?

STALWORT,
HIS MAJESTY WOULD
LIKE TO HAVE A WORD
WITH YOU



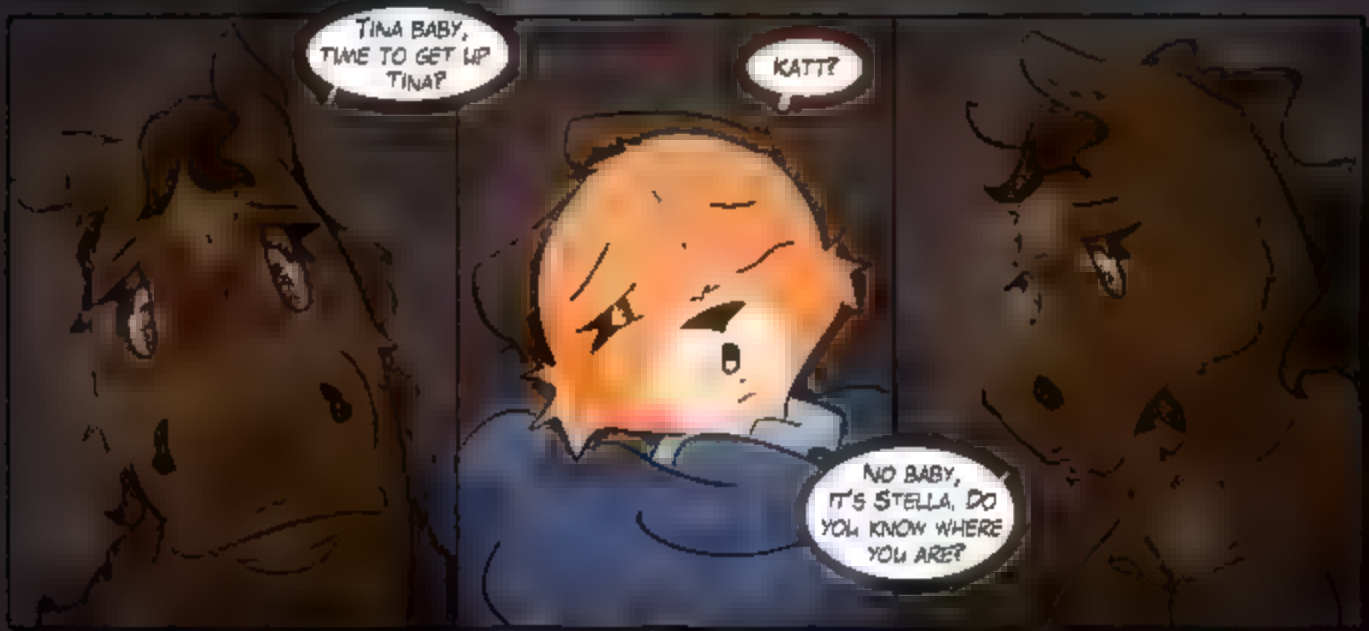
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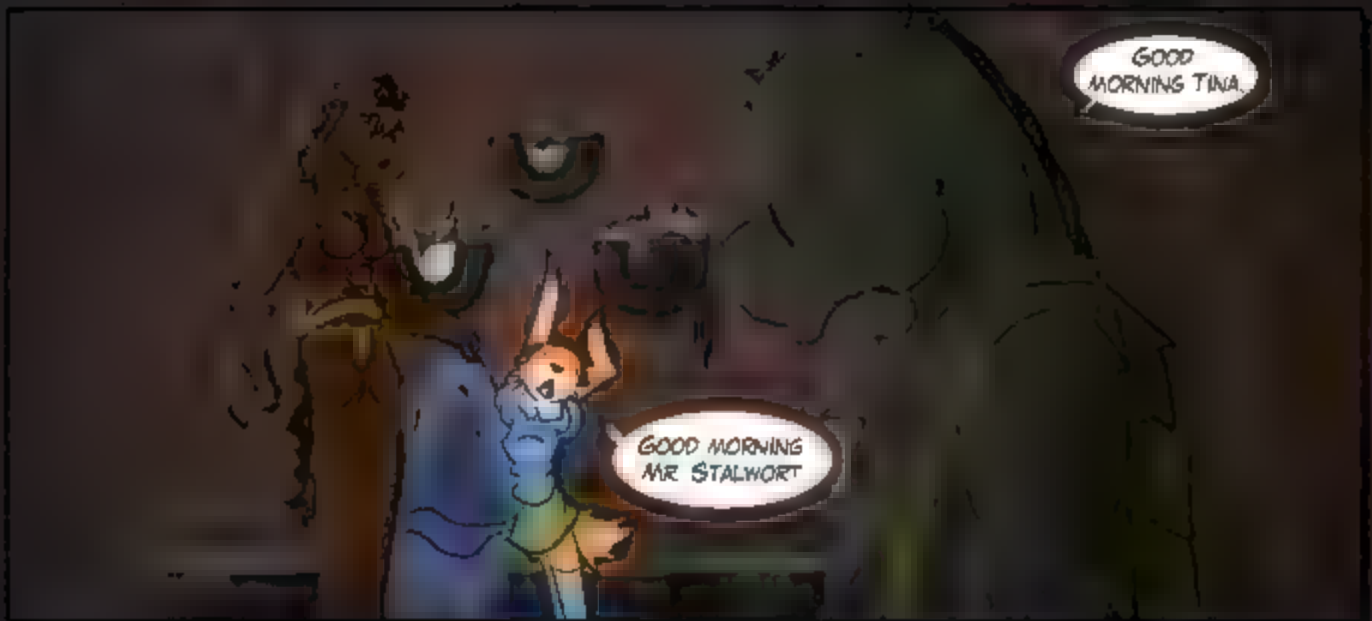


Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak



TAK Tika-tak Tika-tak WERRRNT - WEEEEEEERRRRNT - Tika-tak Tika-tak Tika-tak





GOOD
MORNING TINA.

GOOD MORNING
MR STALWORT



COME WITH
ME CHILD, I AM
LATE AND NEED TO GET
YOU TO MADAME BEATRICE.
SHE IS AN EXTREMELY BITTER
OLD GOAT SO WATCH THAT SHARP
TONGUE OF YOURS. SHE IS
FOND OF HER CANE LAID
ACROSS HER WARDS
TAILS.

DO WHAT YOU'RE
TOLD AS QUICK AS YOU
CAN AND DO NOT SPEAK
UNLESS SPOKEN TOO

YES
MR STALWORT

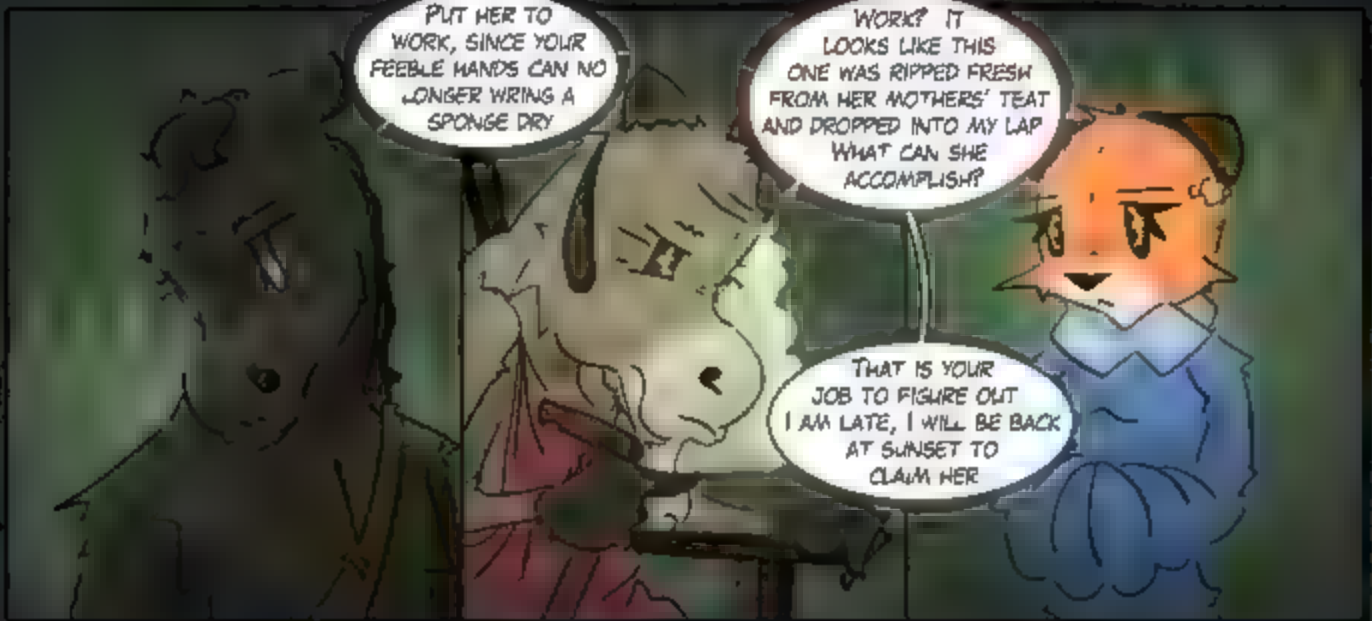


WHAT IS THIS
YOU ARMLESS
CRETIN?



WATCH YOUR
TONE. I HAVE ANOTHER
ADDITION TO YOUR
STAFF

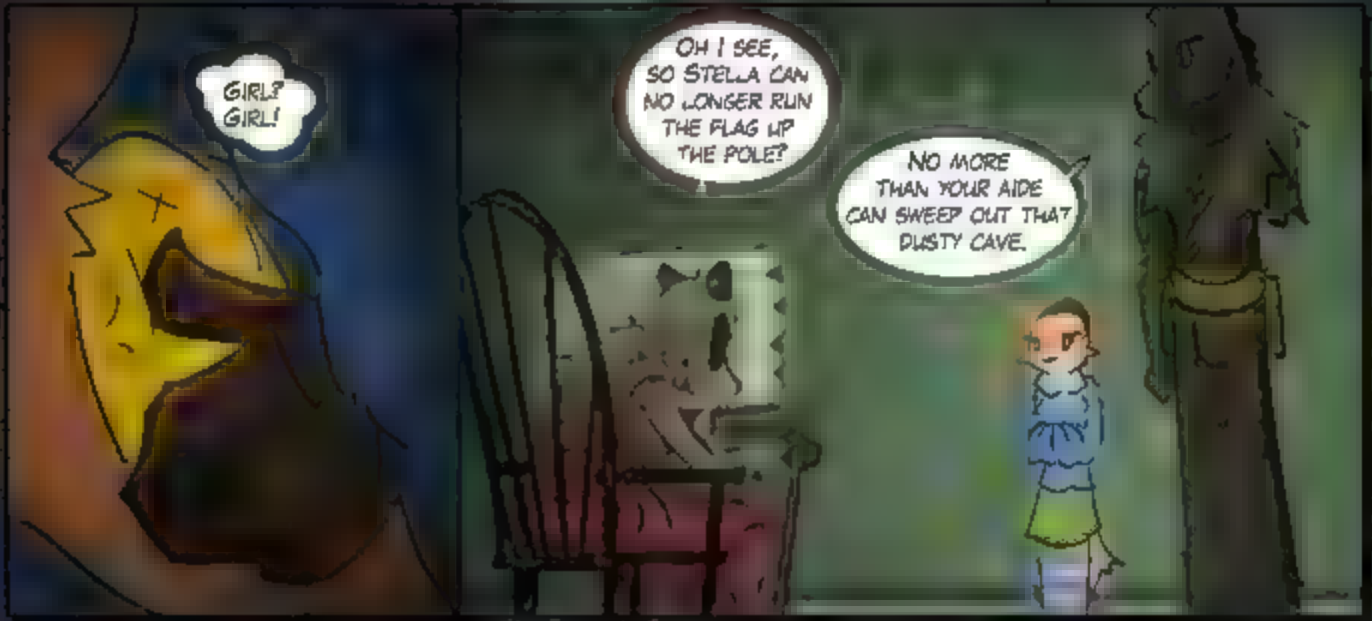
AN ADDITION?
I HAVE TWO TOO MANY
USELESS CURS AS IS. WHAT
AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WITH A THIRD
MILK SOTT



PUT HER TO
WORK, SINCE YOUR
FEEBLE HANDS CAN NO
LONGER WRING A
SPONGE DRY

WORK? IT
LOOKS LIKE THIS
ONE WAS RIPPED FRESH
FROM HER MOTHERS' TEAT
AND DROPPED INTO MY LAP
WHAT CAN SHE
ACCOMPLISH?

THAT IS YOUR
JOB TO FIGURE OUT
I AM LATE, I WILL BE BACK
AT SUNSET TO
CLAIM HER



GIRL?
GIRL!

OH I SEE,
SO STELLA CAN
NO LONGER RUN
THE FLAG UP
THE POLE?

NO MORE
THAN YOUR AIDE
CAN SWEEP OUT THAT
DUSTY CAVE.



GO TO HELL
STALWORT

IF YOU HADN'T
NOTICED, WE'RE
ALREADY STUCK
THERE TOGETHER

TINA

MR STALWORT



WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

TINA MA'AM

WHAT IS THIS? SUCH BITTERNESS, BOTTLED UP AND STORED FOR DECADES.



WELL TINA I HAVE BEEN SADDLED WITH USELESS CHILDREN THAT ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER THIS HOUSE. YOU HAPPEN TO BE THE NEWEST ADDITION TO THE USELESS GROUP IN THE LAUNDRY ROOM.

THEY ARE USELESS, BUT SINCE THEY KNOW THE LAY OF THE LAND, THEY ARE LESS USELESS THAN YOU.



THIS IS ARIEL, THE LEAST USELESS OF THEM, WHEN YOU ARE NOT TAKING ORDERS FROM ME YOU WILL BE TAKING ORDERS FROM HER.

THAT IS DANIELLE AND JACKIE

WELL?

1-

TWACK!!!

CURTSEY?

HAS NO ONE
TAUGHT YOU MANNERS
WHELP? CURTSEY AND
GREET THEM LIKE
A YOUNG LADY

ARIEL,
HOW DO YOU
CURTSEY?

OH THAT'S
GOOD, NO INFLUENCE
NECESSARY

OH MA'AM,
DO NOT BE TOO
HARSH ON HER, IF MY
FEET HAD JUST HIT THE
GROUND AND MY MOTHER
STILL SCREAMING SURELY
I WOULD NOT KNOW
HOW EITHER.

VERY GOOD
MY CHILD

RETURN THE
GREETING WHELP

BUT AS
I AM A GIRL OF
THE HOUSE.



HELLO
I AM TINA

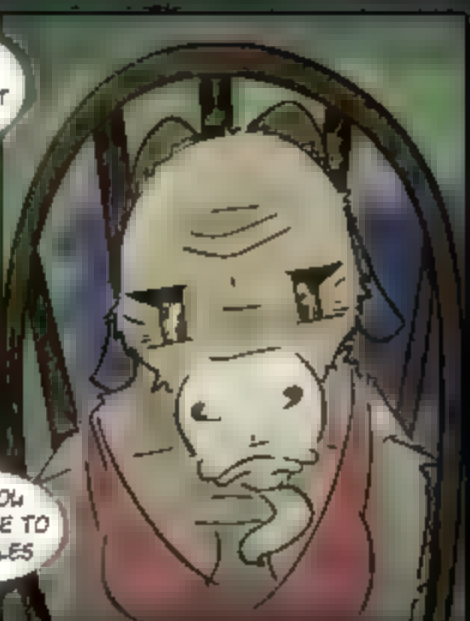
LIG!
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR TAIL?



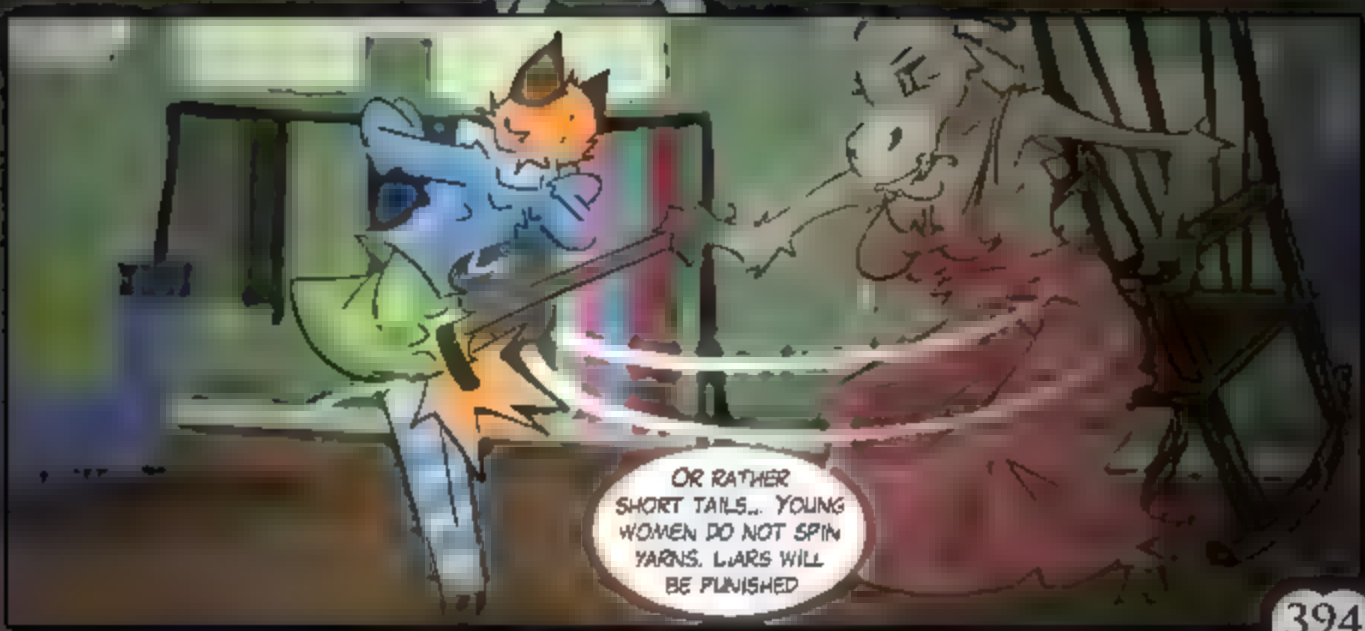
ANSWER
THE GIRL



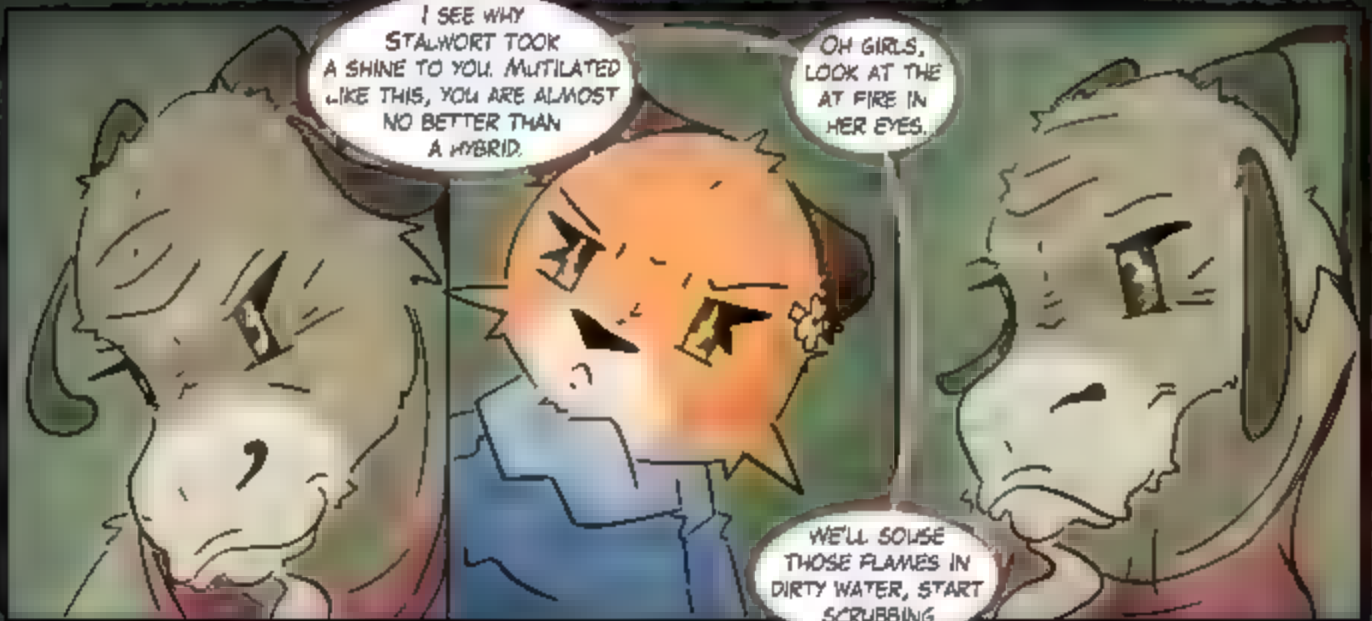
A-A CONVOY
TOOK IT WHEN I
WOULDN'T DO WHAT
HE WANTED.



I SEE YOU
ARE PRONE TO
TALL TALES



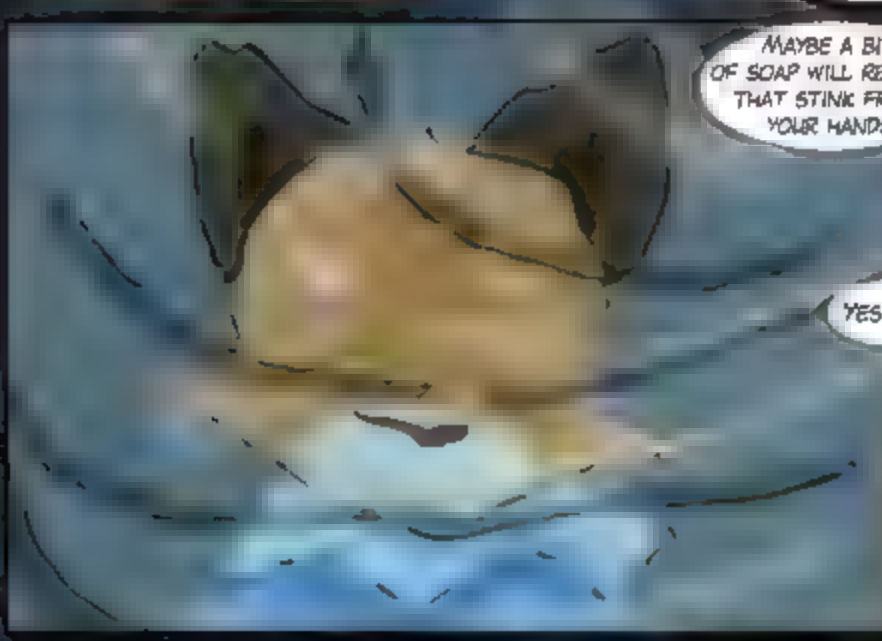
OR RATHER
SHORT TAILS... YOUNG
WOMEN DO NOT SPIN
YARNS. LIARS WILL
BE PUNISHED



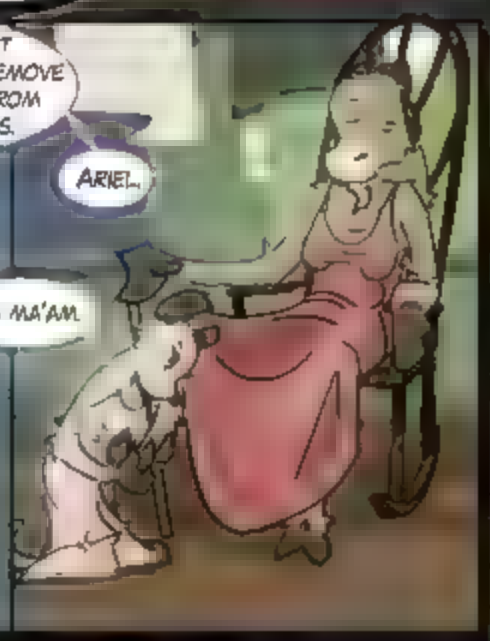
I SEE WHY
STALWORT TOOK
A SHINE TO YOU. MUTILATED
LIKE THIS, YOU ARE ALMOST
NO BETTER THAN
A HYBRID.

OH GIRLS,
LOOK AT THE
AT FIRE IN
HER EYES.

WE'LL SOUSE
THOSE FLAMES IN
DIRTY WATER, START
SCRUBBING

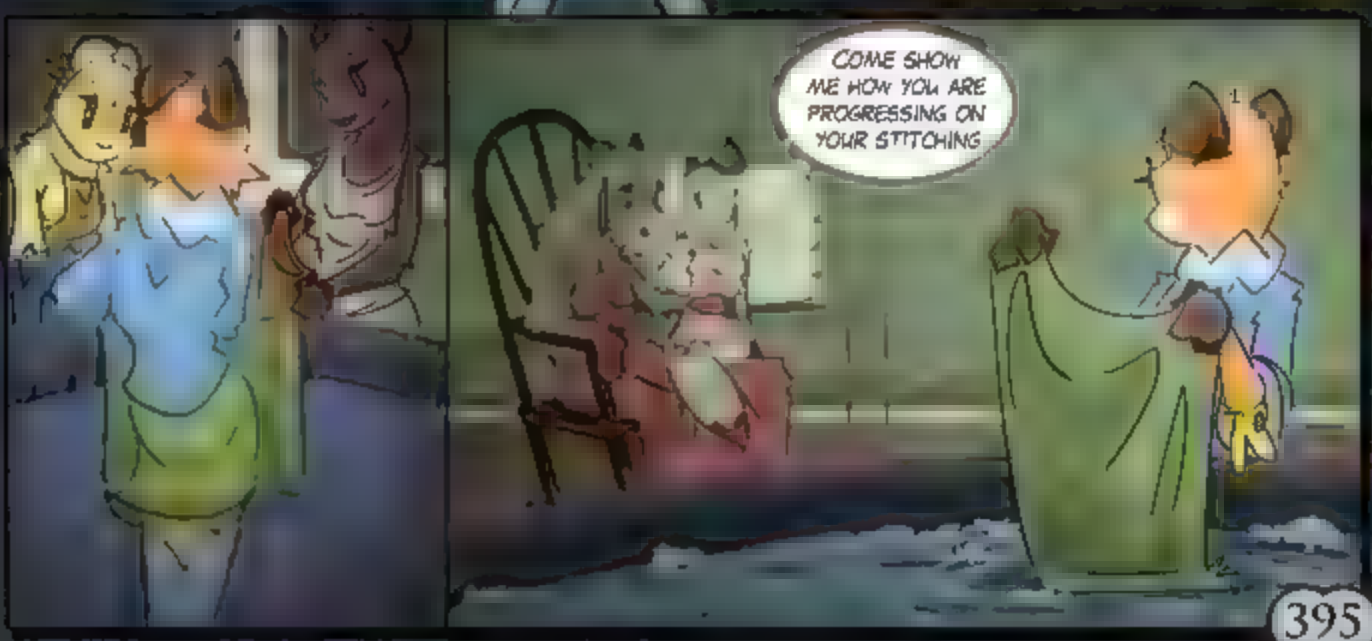


MAYBE A BIT
OF SOAP WILL REMOVE
THAT STINK FROM
YOUR HANDS.



ARIEL.

YES MA'AM.



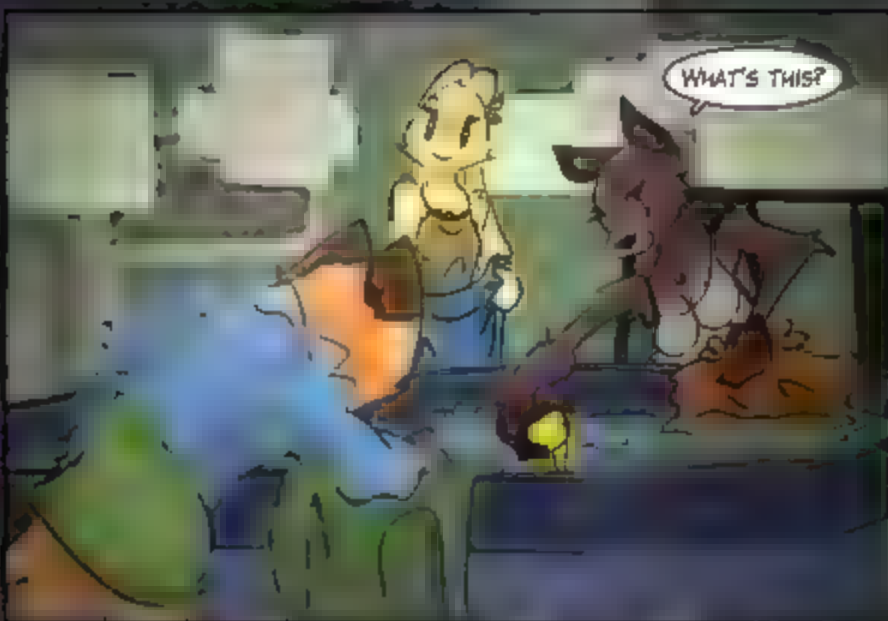
COME SHOW
ME HOW YOU ARE
PROGRESSING ON
YOUR STITCHING



WHOA,
WHOA, WHOA!
GIRL! GIRL!



FLOPP



WHAT'S THIS?



GIVE
HIM BACK!



AWWW
POOR BABY
WANTS HER
DOLLY BACK



EASY
EASY GIRLS.
WE DON'T NEED
TO BREAK THE
POOR BUNNY

GIVE HIM
TO ME!

CAN'T EVEN MUSTER
ENOUGH ENERGY TO TELL
THEM TO STOP AT LEAST
THESE MALEFIC LITTLE
SPAWN ARE GENERATING
SOMETHING.

WHAT IS GOING
ON OVER THERE?

TINA DROPPED
HER DOLLY IN
THE WASH.

DOLL?

HEY!
HEY LET'S
PLAY NICE
GIRLS.

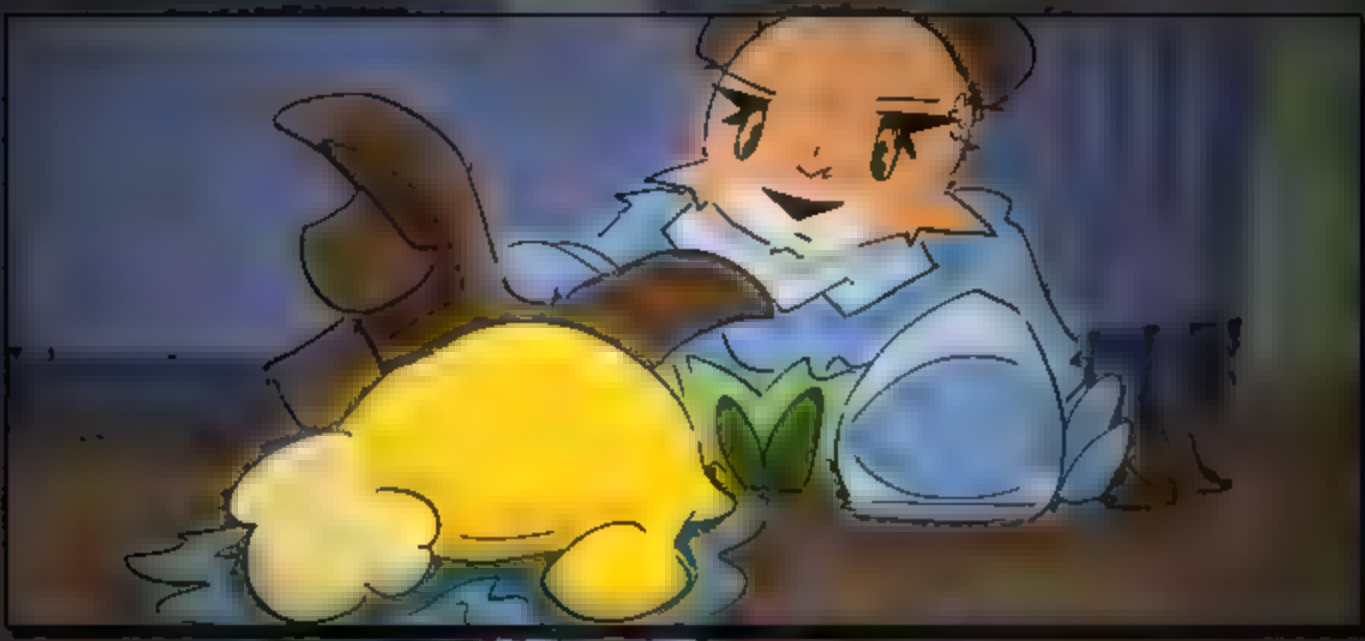
THE DOLLY
IS ALL WET, WE
WILL HAVE TO WRING
HIM OUT

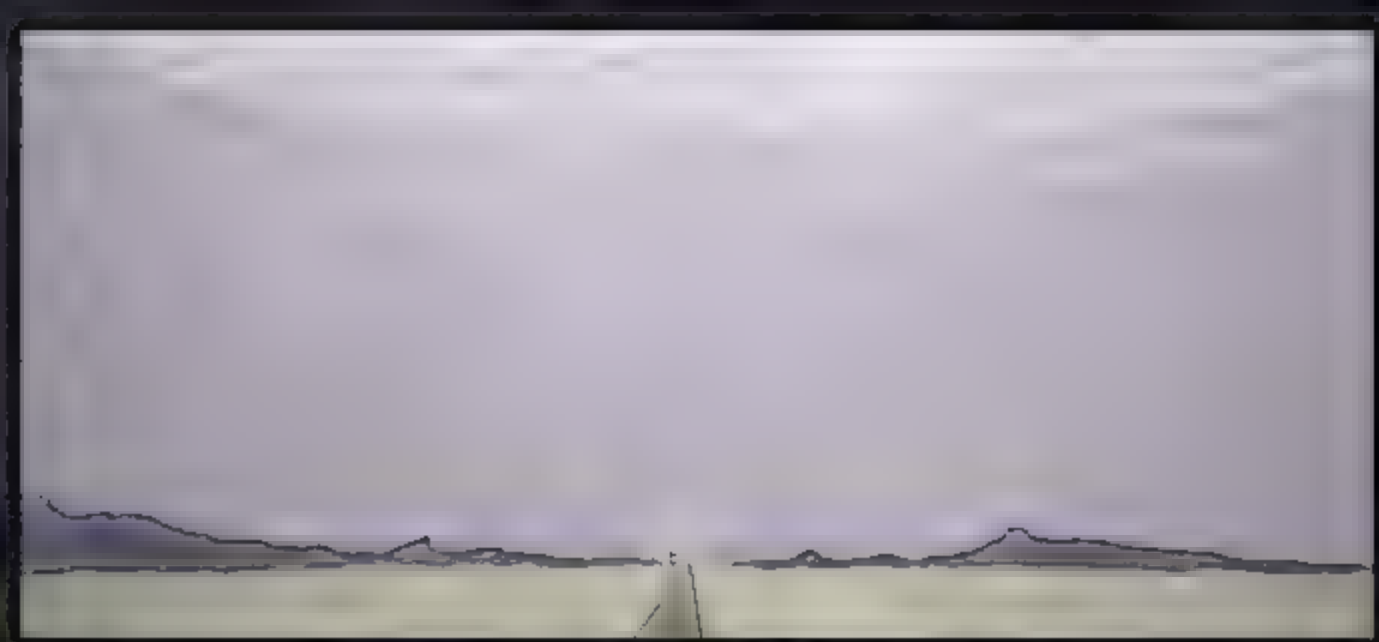
ALRIGHT FUNS
OVER GIRLS. COME ON
YOU OLD BITCH,
SAVE ME!

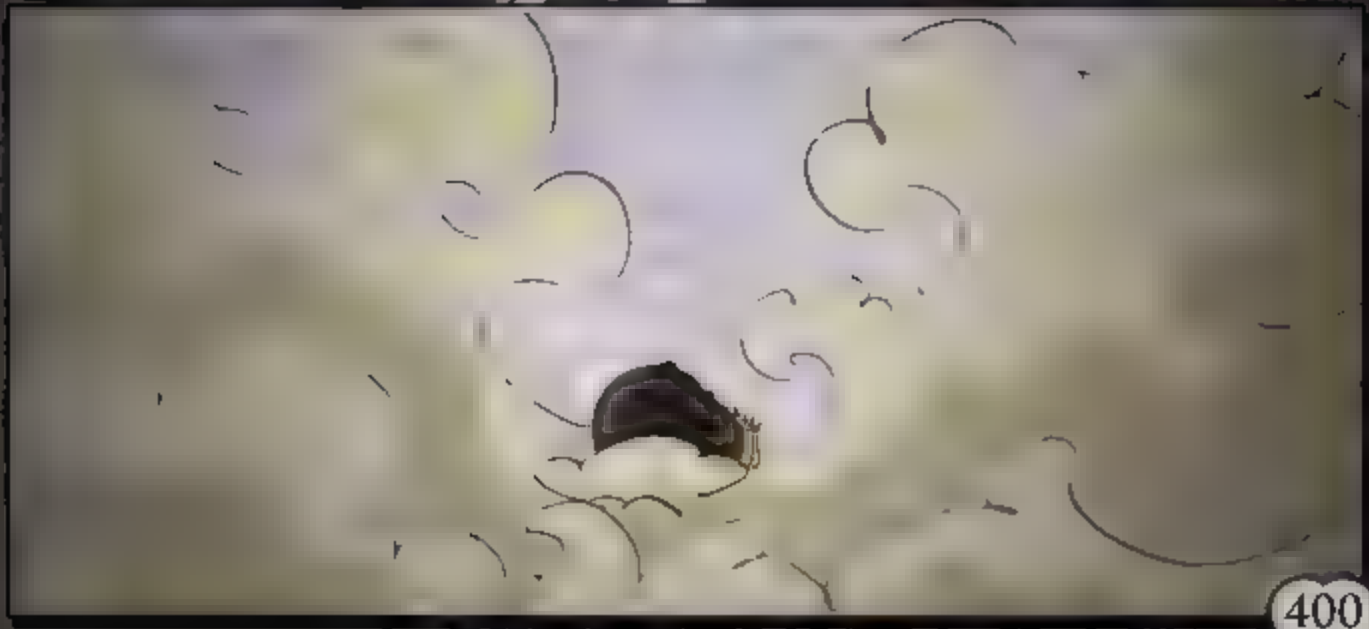
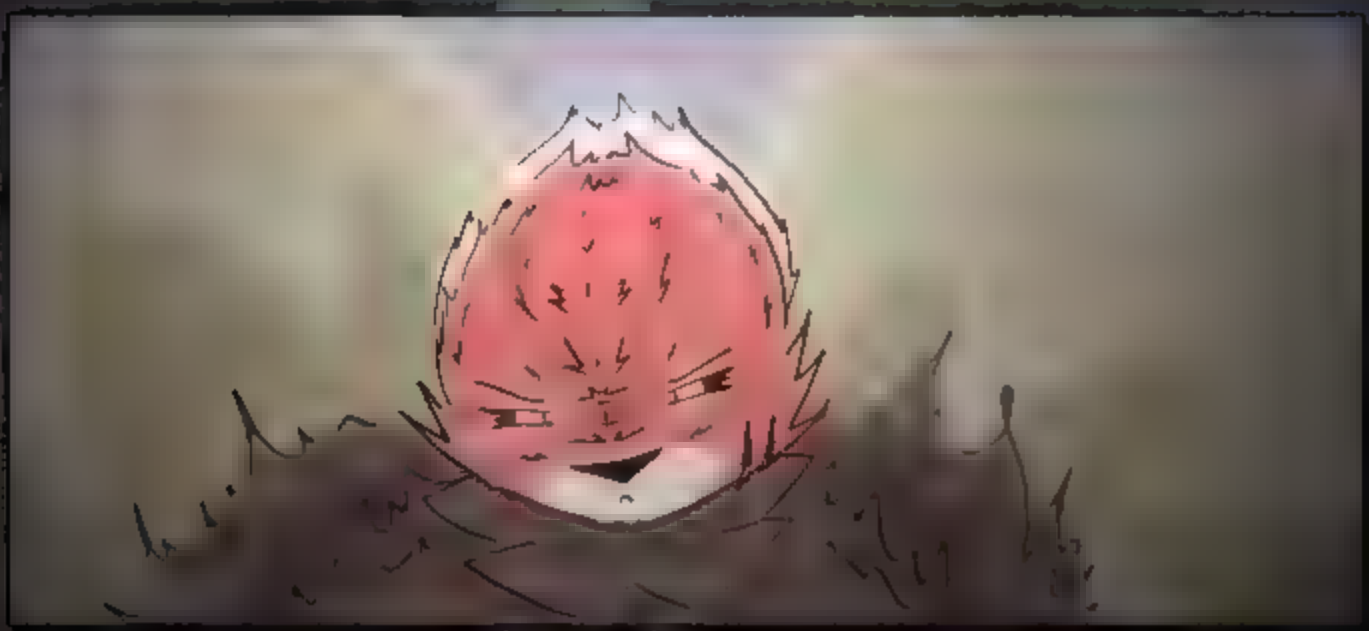
OOF!

STOP THAT
RUCKUS!

YOU THREE,
GET BACK TO
WORK!







KNOCK
KNOCK



THE MASTER
WILL BE DINING WITH
GUESTS TONIGHT HIS ATTIRE
FOR THE EVENING MUST
BE PRESSED AND
DELIVERED



LINE UP!



"KNOCK"
"KNOCK"



NICHOLAS SAID
THE MASTER HAS
REQUESTED THIS TO
BE DELIVERED TO HIM ALONG
WITH HIS ATTIRE FOR
THIS EVENING.



VERY WELL

"CLAP"
"CLAP"

GIRLS
GET TO WORK





TAKE THIS TO
THE MASTERS BEDROOM.
GO DOWN THE HALL TO THE RIGHT
AND THEN GO UP THE STAIRS TO THE SECOND FLOOR
AND THEN GO DOWN THE HALL TO THE LARGE
DOUBLE DOORS. KNOCK SOFTLY TWICE AND
WAIT. DO NOT DROP THOSE CLOTHES.
IF EVEN A SLEEVE HITS THE GROUND
I WILL KNOW I WILL THEN SHOW
YOU WHAT MY CANE IS
BEST USED FOR.

DO YOU
UNDERSTAND?

YES MA'AM.



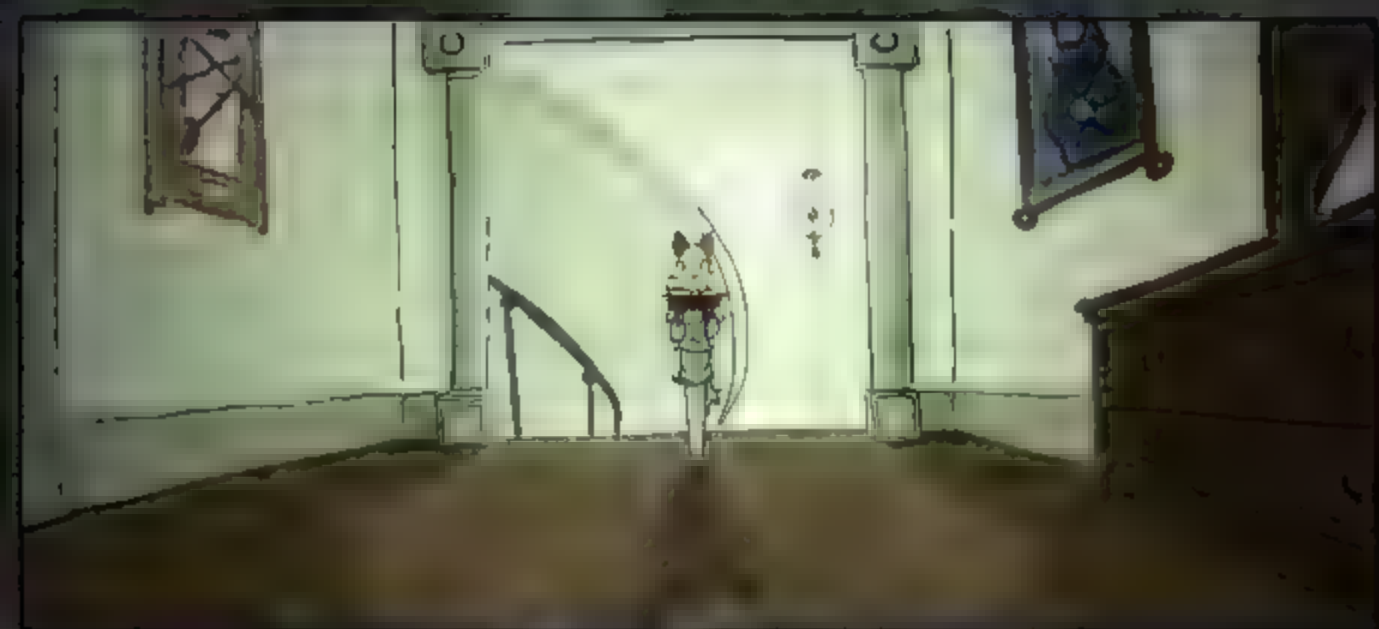
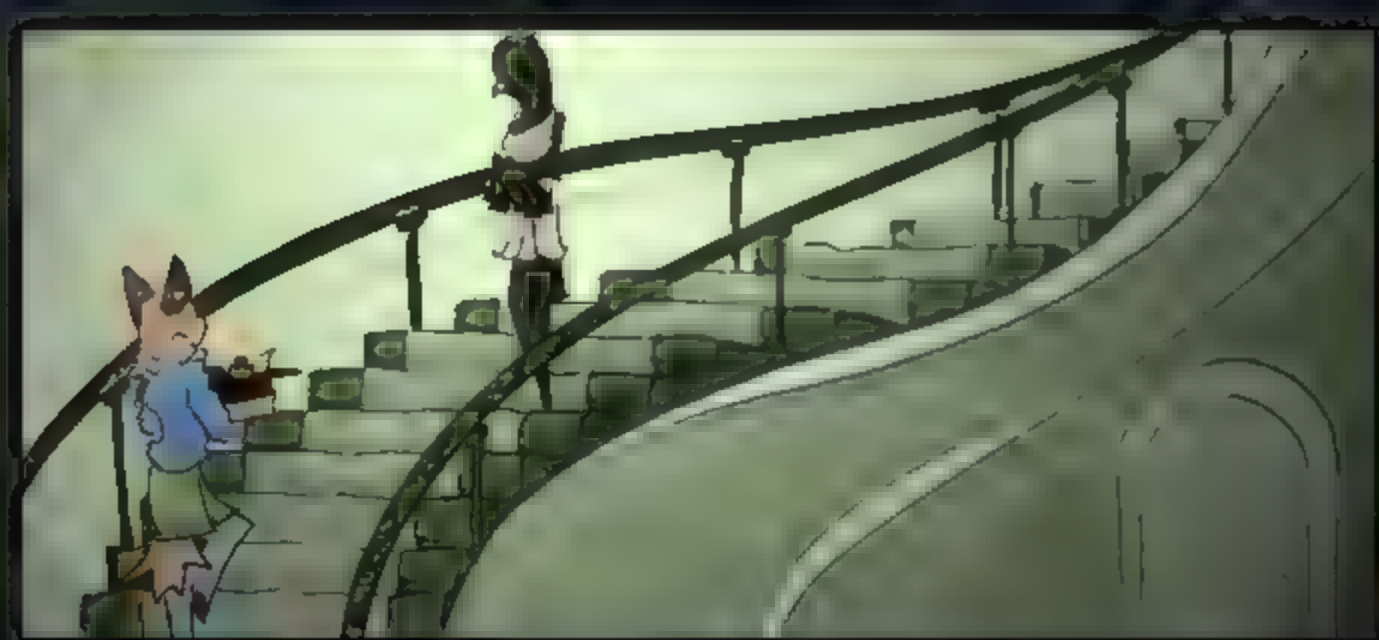
GO BE
QUICK ABOUT
IT, AND RETURN
WHEN YOU ARE
FINISHED

YES MA'AM.



SLAM!







IS THIS THE
MASTERS
BEDROOM?

AND WHO
ARE YOU?

I AM TINA,
I WAS TOLD TO
DELIVER THIS TO
THE MASTER.

I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO KNOCK BUT
I WAS ALSO TOLD
NOT TO PUT THIS
DOWN. COULD YOU
KNOCK FOR ME
PLEASE?



I HAVE
ALREADY KNOCKED
CHILD. DO YOU TAKE
ME FOR A FOOL THAT STANDS
OUTSIDE A DOOR WAITING FOR
IT TO OPEN WITHOUT
ANNOUNCING
HIMSELF?

NO I-

FRANCIS?



AND WHO
IS THIS DELICIOUS
LITTLE MORSEL?

TINA, I-

SIR, YOUR
GUESTS HAVE
ARRIVED, THEY ARE
AWAITING YOU IN THE
SUN ROOM. YOU NEED
TO SIGN THIS
AND THIS.

ONE OF THE
NEW SERVANTS FRESH
OFF THE TRAIN. ALTHOUGH
FRESH MAY NOT BE THE
BEST DESCRIPTOR

TELL THE
GUESTS I WILL BE
DOWN SHORTLY

SIR.

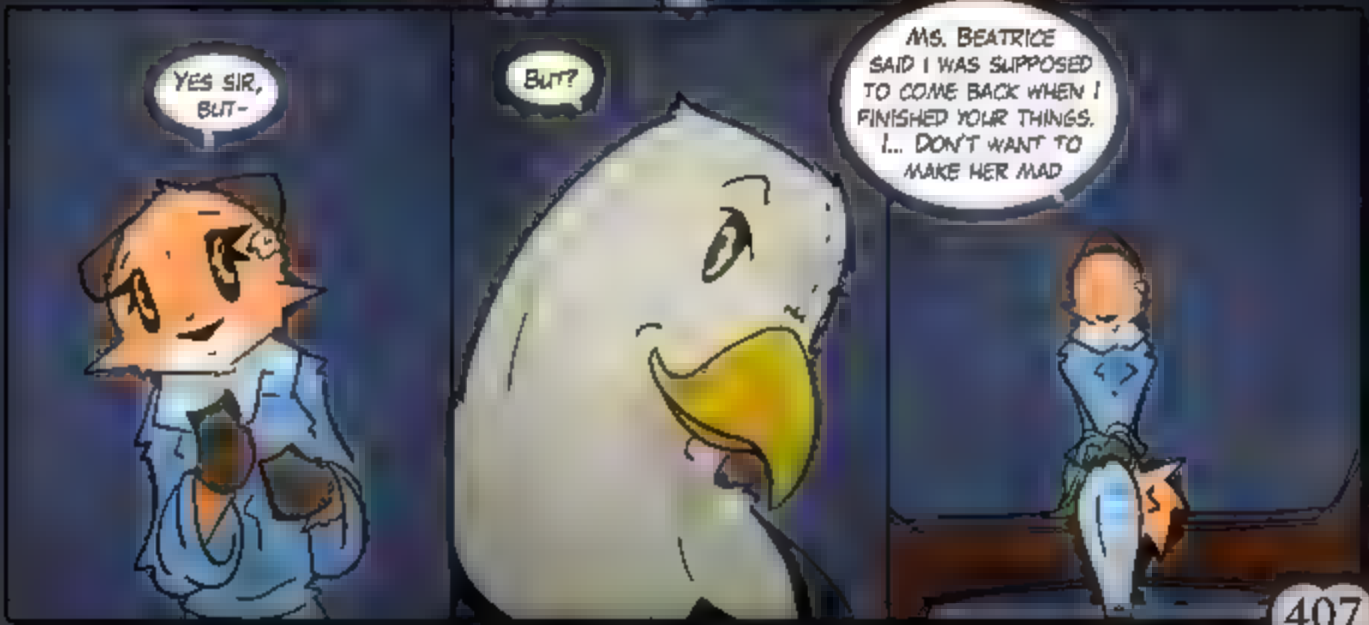
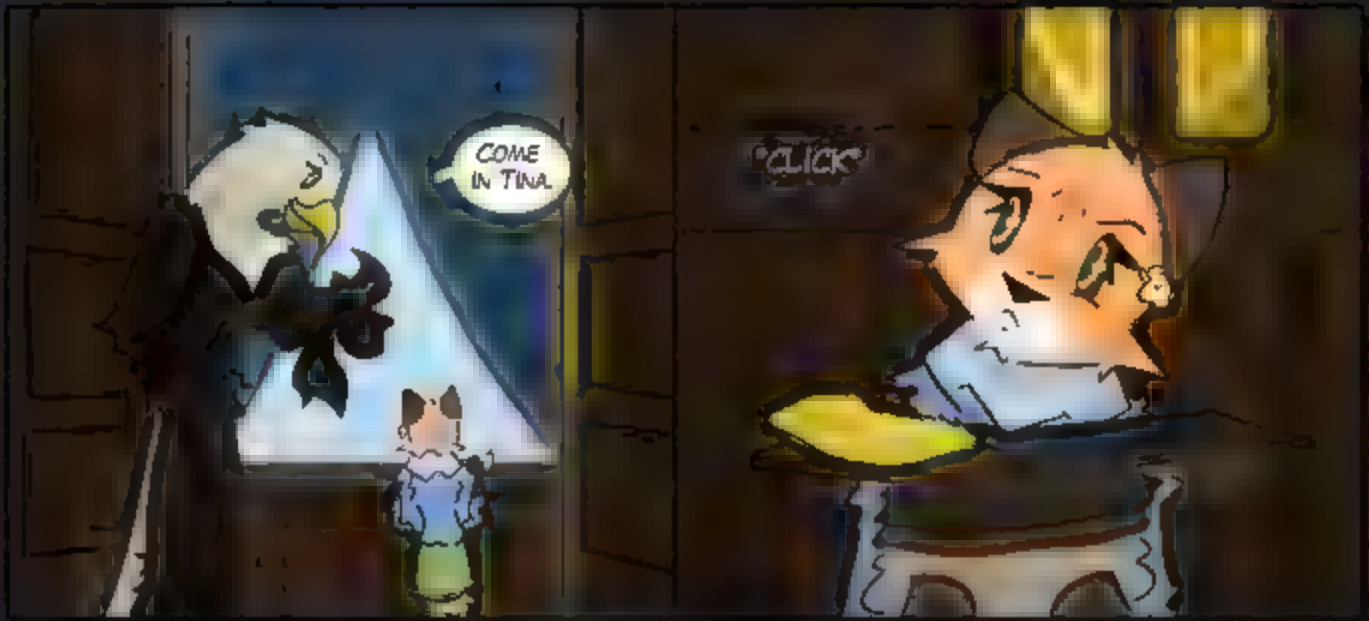
DELIVER THIS
TO BEATRICE AND
THIS TO OLIVE IN
THE KITCHEN.

DISMISSED
FRANCIS

SIR.

TINA IS IT?

YES SIR.





ANY MORE
MAD THEN SHE IS
NORMALLY?

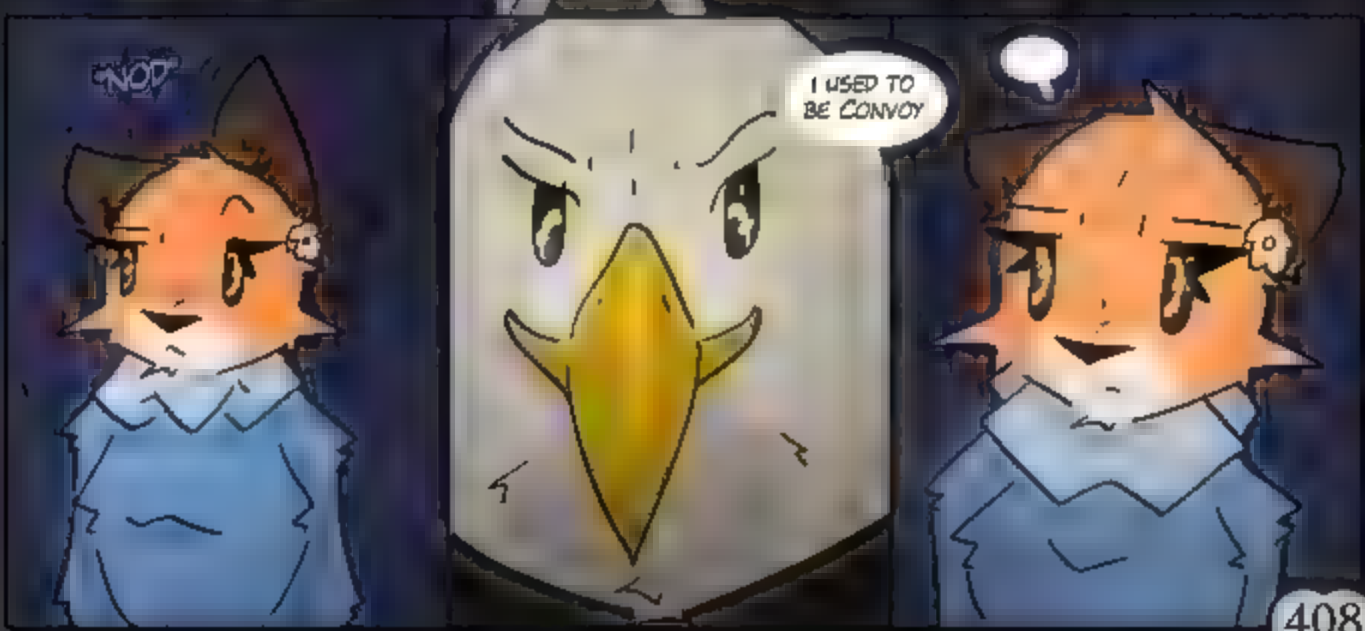
SIR, I'M
NOT AFRAID OF
HER BEING MAD, SHE
CAN'T HURT ME,
BUT..

SHE GETS A
LITTLE TOO FRIENDLY
WITH TAILS?



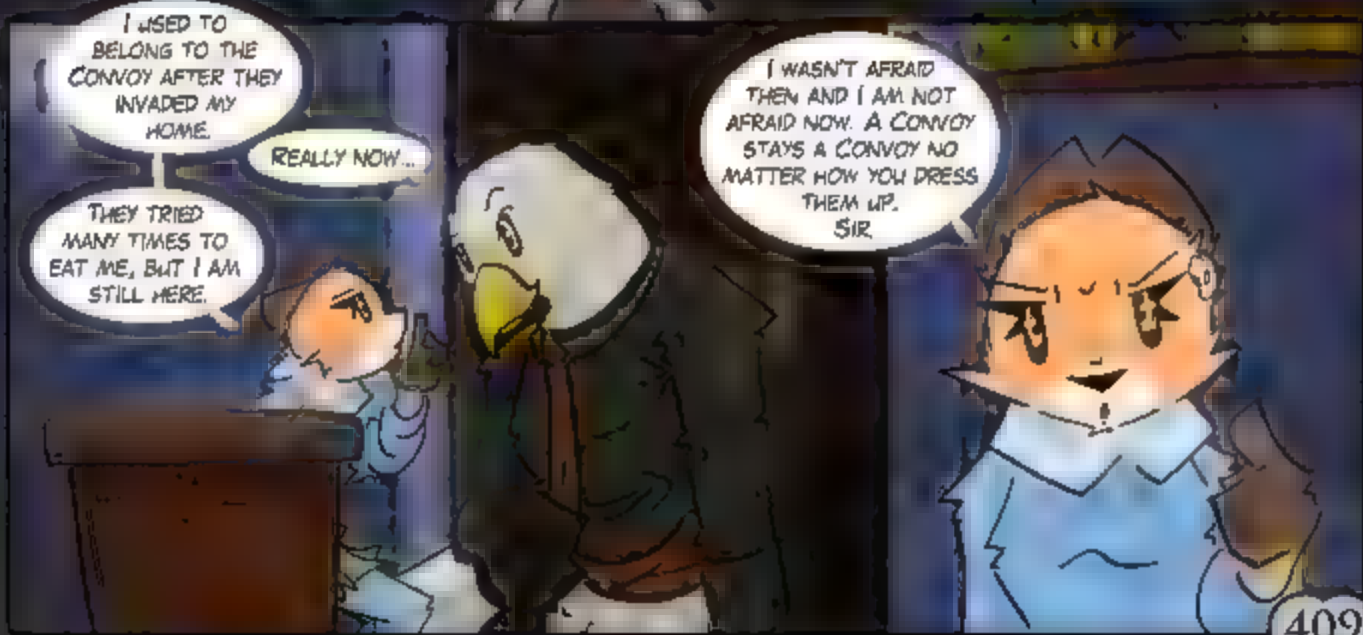
I INFORMED
BEATRICE THAT YOU
WILL BE MY NEW
PERSONAL AIDE.

CAN YOU KEEP
A SECRET?



"NOD"

I USED TO
BE CONVOY



OH THERE
IS A FIRE IN YOU.
I LIKE THAT

I AM JEALOUS,
IT LOOKS AS IF ONE
OF THEM GOT A
TASTE OF YOUR
TAIL.

I WAS NOT AS
EASY TO TASTE AS
THEY THOUGHT



QUITE.

YOU STINK
OF THE WASTES.

I SMELL
WORSE NOW
SIR.

ONLY TO
THOSE WHOSE
INTEREST LIES
IN MEN.



COME WE
WILL GREET MY
DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS.

YOU ARE TO
STAY TWO STEPS
BEHIND ME AT ALL TIMES.
BEHAVE OR I WILL GIVE YOU
BACK TO THAT DIRTY
OLD GOAT

KEEP THAT SHARP
TONGUE OF YOURS IN
YOUR MOUTH OR I MAY JUST
GIVE UP MY VOW AND
HAVE A MIDNIGHT
SNACK.

YES SIR

YOU WERE
SENT TO TEST
ME LITTLE DESSERT,
BUT I SHALL NOT GIVE
IN TO OLD VICE.





DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, OUR MASTER
OZYMANDIS.



GENTLEMEN, LADY,
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
I HOPE YOUR TRIPS WENT WELL.
WE HAVE BEEN PLANNING THIS FOR
SOME TIME YET ONE CRUCIAL
MEMBER IS STILL
MISSING

HE IS MOST
LIKELY LATE DUE TO
THE, AH, INCIDENT

WE ARE HERE
FOR A HISTORY MAKING
SUMMIT A SHOWING OF THE
FINEST STOCK AND TO LAY PLANS
FOR THE FUTURE BEFORE US. A NEW
COALITION BORN OF FREE MEN AND
ENTREPRENEURS WILL HAVE TO WAIT
OUR NIGHT HAS BEEN SET BACK
SLIGHTLY DUE TO
UNFORESEEN EVENTS.

MANY OF YOU
HAVE JUST ARRIVED,
BUT EVEN THIS NEWS
CANNOT HAVE ESCAPED YOU
OUR LARGEST TRANSFER DEPOT
HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY
AN UNKNOWN FORCE.

IT IS A MINOR
INCONVENIENCE IN THE
GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.
WE HAVE NOW COMPLETED OVER
FIFTEEN HUNDRED MILES OF RAIL
TRACK CONNECTING OUR SEVEN,
ALBEIT NOW SIX,
ESTABLISHMENTS.

WE ARE NOW AT
THE FOREFRONT OF
RE-ESTABLISHING THIS
WORLD IN OUR IMAGE. WE
HAVE AN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT
I CAN HONESTLY SAY, NO ONE
ELSE ON THE PLANET HAS ACHIEVED.
OUR REACH EXTENDS TO ALMOST
A THIRD OF THE HABITABLE
AREAS OF THIS CONTINENT.
GENTLEMEN, TO THE
COALITION.

BUT ENOUGH
OF BUSINESS FOR
THE PRESENT, WE ARE ALL
ANXIOUS TO FILL OUR
BELLIES. DINNER
IS SERVED.

HOW WAS THE
PLAGUE AFFECTED
YOUR STOCK?

WE HAVE HAD
A HARD TIME SINCE
THE SOUTHERN OIL
FIELDS HAVE BEEN
BREACHED.

WE HAVE HAD
A FEW CASUALTIES
THIS YEAR, BUT WE ARE
VERY STUDIOUS ABOUT CONTROL.
OUR STOCKS HEALTH IS IN PEAK
FORM, THE PLAGUE SEEMS TO BE
RUNNING OUT OF STEAM
IN THE NORTH.

WE SHOULD
CONSIDER A CAMPAIGN
TO RETAKE ONE OF THE MAJOR
CITIES WITHIN OUR REALM. BEGINNING
A CONSTRUCTION, OR RATHER A
DECONSTRUCTION MOVEMENT WOULD
PROFIT US ALL WITH MATERIAL
AND STOCK.

WE HAVE HAD
MORE PROBLEMS GETTING
WATER TO OUR EVER EXPANDING
COMPLEX. RELIABLE BUILDING
MATERIALS HAVE
BEEN SCARCE.

THOSE CITIES ARE
INFESTED WITH PLAGUE,
HYBRIDS, AND CONVOY.
WE WOULD LOSE A GREAT DEAL
OF MOMENTUM IF WE ATTEMPTED
TO RETAKE THE FALLEN
LAND NOW.

WE HAVE A GREAT
DEAL OF CONTROL OVER
THE CONVOY. AT TIMES WE
ARE THEIR ONLY SOURCE OF
SUSTENANCE. I AM SURE WE COULD
USE THEM AS A BLUNT WEAPON
TO SMASH OUT THE
INFESTATION.

THE CONVOY
ARE UNRELIABLE AND
UNPREDICTABLE, THAT PLAN
WOULD BACKFIRE SOMEWHERE
DOWN THE CHAIN IF NOT IMMEDIATELY.
I HAVE STARTED CONDITIONING STOCK
FOR LOYALTY AND COMBAT. THEY
SERVE RATHER WELL WHEN
GIVEN THE PROPER
INCENTIVE.

I HAVE SCOUTS
WITHIN TWO CITIES AS
WE SPEAK. FEEDING ME INTELLIGENCE,
POPULATION BREAKDOWNS, MATERIAL,
AND ACCESS. HEAR ME OUT, I BELIEVE
IT CAN BE DONE WITH VERY
LITTLE LOSS AND
MUCH TO GAIN.

TRAINING YOUR
OWN STOCK FOR COMBAT
IS ASKING FOR AN INEVITABLE
REBELLION WITHIN YOUR OWN WALLS.
THE CONVOY PROVE MUCH LESS OF A
THREAT. THEY HAVE BEEN A PIVOTAL
TOOL IN REBUILDING
THE RAILS.

I SEE THE
ADVANTAGES WE COULD
GAIN BY RETAKING ONE OF
THE CITIES, BUT THE
DISADVANTAGES
WEIGH HEAVY WITH
UNKNOWN THREATS.

GENTLEMEN, LADY,
OUR FINAL GUEST HAS ARRIVED
FINISH YOUR DINNER AT YOUR LEISURE
AND THEN JOIN US IN THE SUNROOM.
TAKE A MOMENT TO FINISH, I HEAR
OUR CHEF HAS PREPARED AN
EXQUISITE DESSERT

TINA MAKE UP
A SMALL PLATE FOR
OUR NEWLY ARRIVED GUEST
BRING IT IN WHEN THE MEN
HERE HAVE FINISHED.

YES SIR



COLE, DO YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN TO ME THE NEWS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM YOUR ENGINEERS?

NO HELLO? MY HEART ACHES.



A SMALL SET BACK.

CUT THE FUNNY MAN BUSINESS. I HAVE THE OTHER FIVE IN THE DINNING ROOM. THEY ARE ALL ON EDGE, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DECLARATION OF OUR COOPERATION AND STABILITY NOW I FIND OUR GREATEST INVESTOR IS IN RUINS.

SMALL SET BACK? YOU CAN FOOL THEM UNTIL THE WORLD GROWS COLD, BUT YOU CAN'T FOOL ME. YOUR ENTIRE ARMY OF GOONS IS GONE, WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?



ACTUALLY IT'S
CLOSER TO EIGHTY
PERCENT

ARE YOU GOING
TO SHINE SOME LIGHT
ON THIS OR JUST CRACK JOKEST THE
CONVOY COULD NOT HAVE MUSTERED
ENOUGH MEN TO MAKE A SUCCESSFUL
RAID UPON YOUR ESTABLISHMENT
ON THE BEST OF DAYS.



THE SCATTERED
FACTIONS OF THIS WORLD
CAN BARELY SCRATCH TOGETHER
ENOUGH FOOD LET ALONE A RAIDING
PARTY DID YOUR MEN JUST
DIE OF BOREDOM?



FUNNILY ENOUGH
IT WAS THE EXCITEMENT
OF JUST ONE WOMAN

YOU CAN NOT
BE SERIOUS. A LONE
WOMAN CAUSED THE DEATH
OF OVER ONE HUNDRED
OF YOUR MEN.

ONE HUNDRED
AND SEVENTY EIGHT
GIVE OR TAKE A FEW OF
THE WOUNDED WHO MIGHT
HAVE KICKED OFF IN
THE MEANTIME.

IT WAS
GLORIOUS, LIKE
THE OLD DAYS.



ARE YOU
ENJOYING THIS?
WHAT'S YOUR GAME
COLE? HAVE YOU
CRACKED HAVING LOST
SO MANY MENT

IS THIS SOME
SORT OF STRANGE
GRASP FOR POWER? A
BIGGER CLIT, MORE
CONTROL, A
NICE HATT?

YOU CAN NOT
'EXPECT ME TO STAND
HERE AND LISTEN TO
THIS MADNESS.

WE ARE BUILDING
AN EMPIRE, I WILL NOT
ALLOW YOU TO SABOTAGE
IT WITH INSANE STORIES
AND GAMES.

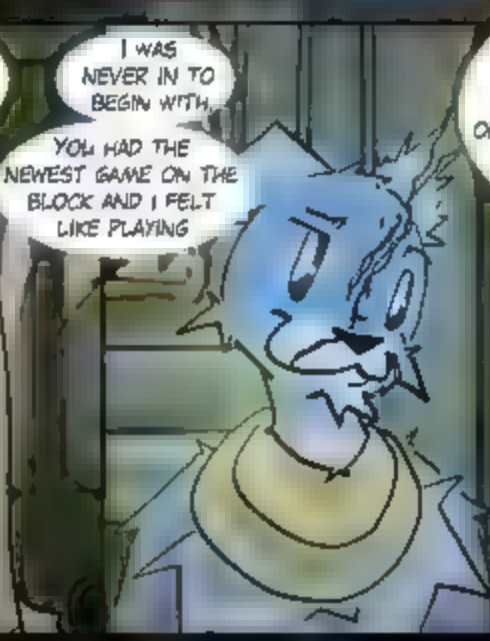


YOUR LITTLE
EMPIRE DOES NOT
STAND A CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.
O2 IT IS BASED OFF OF AN
OUTMODDED WAY OF
THINKING.

THE FLUSH YOU
HAVE ROUNDED UP ARE
NOT PRIMITIVES. THEY ALL
REMEMBER A TIME BEFORE THIS,
AND ONCE CIVILIZATION BEGINS
TO BLOOM THEY WILL
NOT SIT STILL.



DID YOU SUDDENLY
GROW A CONSCIENCE COLE?
DID WE OFFEND SOME SENSE OF
YOUR MORAL CODE? NOW
YOU WANT OUT?



I WAS
NEVER IN TO
BEGIN WITH.

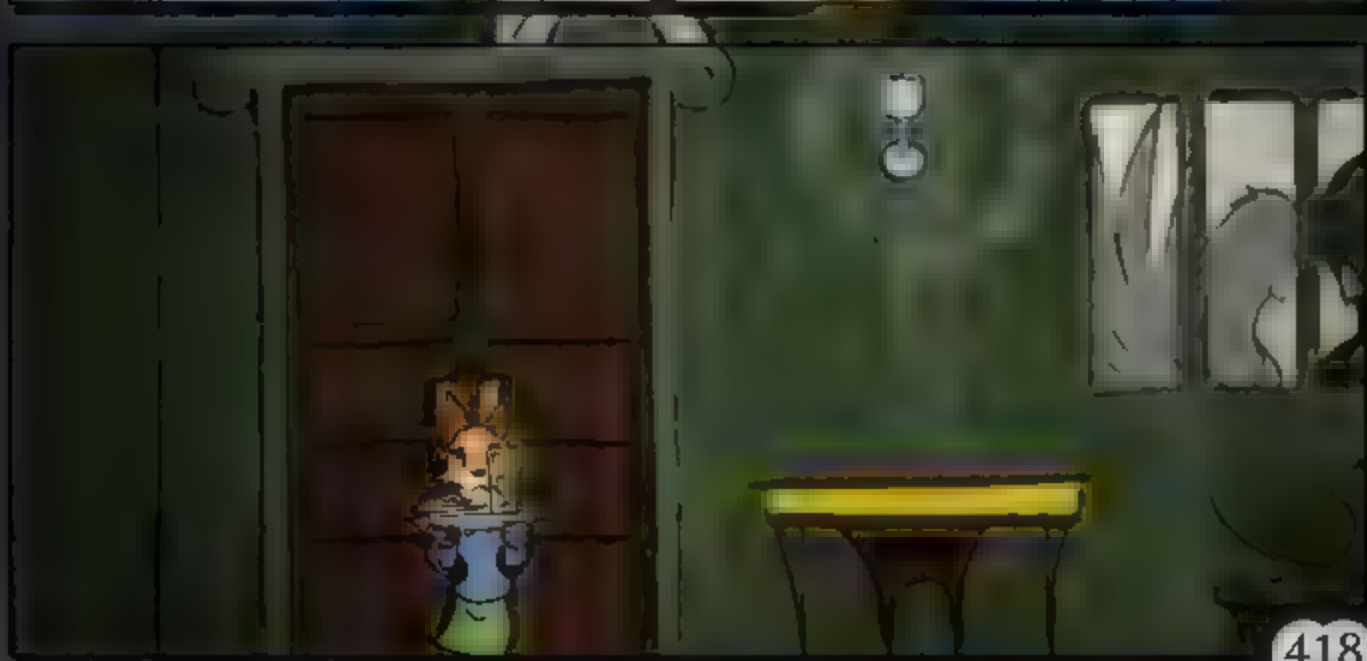
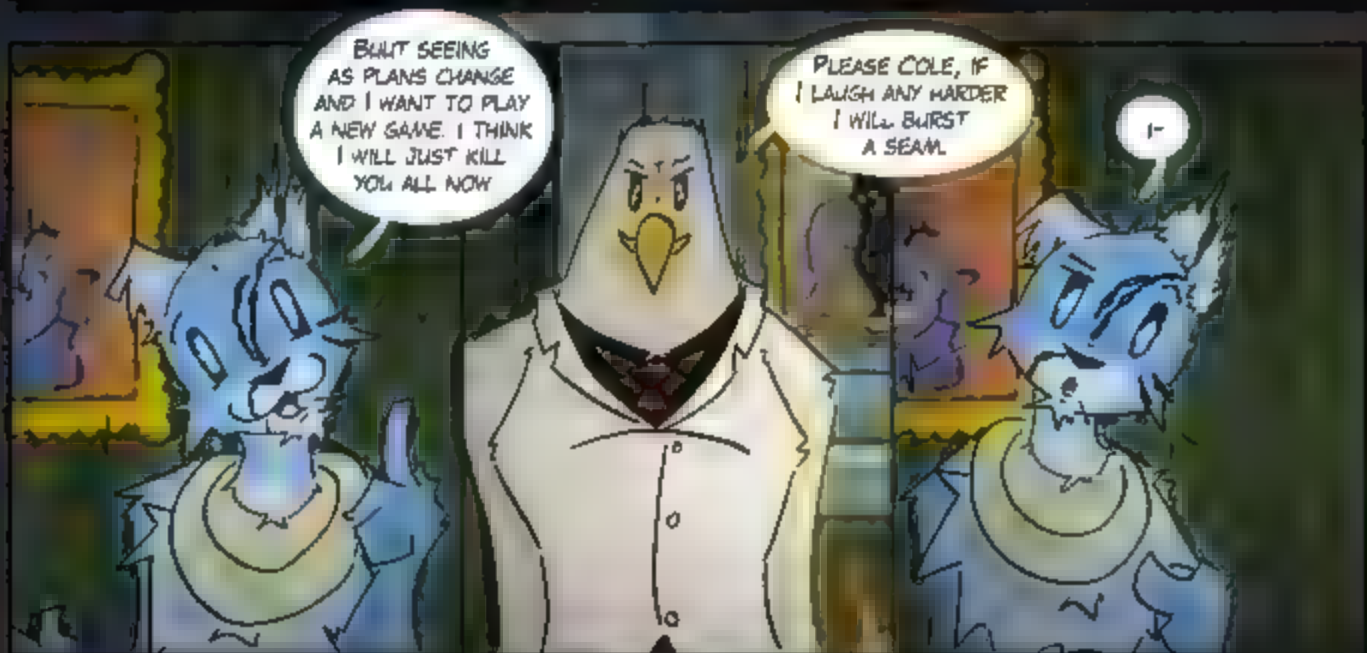
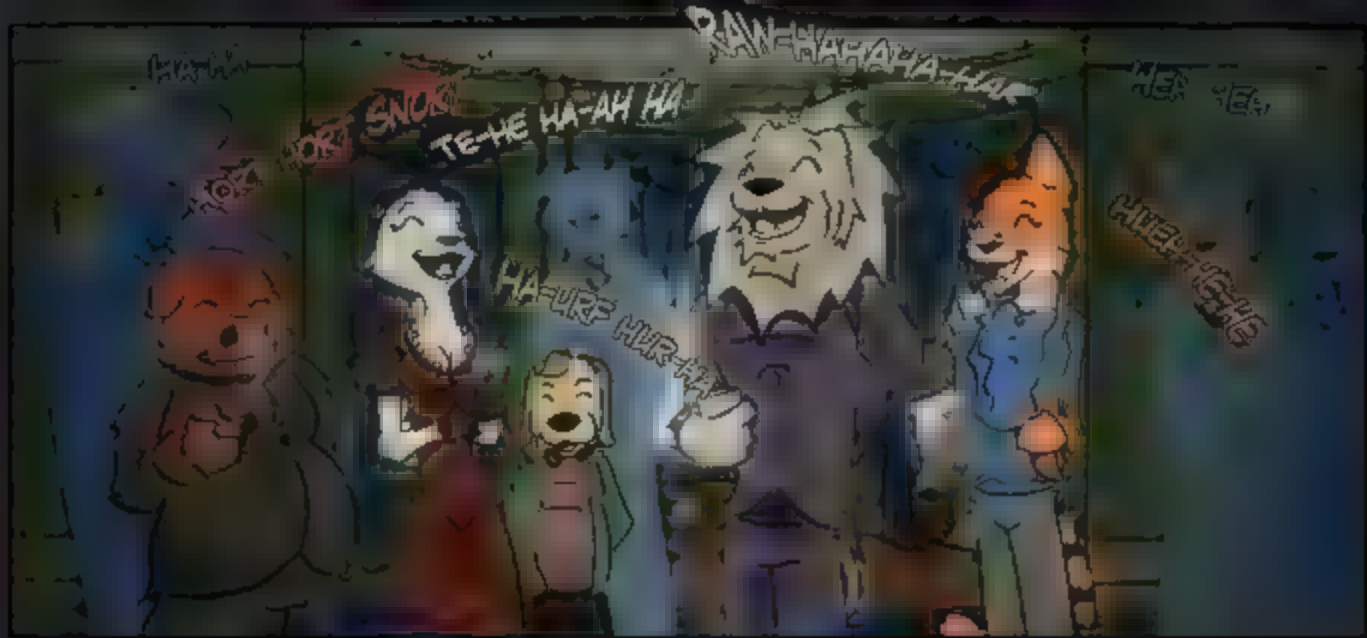
YOU HAD THE
NEWEST GAME ON THE
BLOCK AND I FELT
LIKE PLAYING

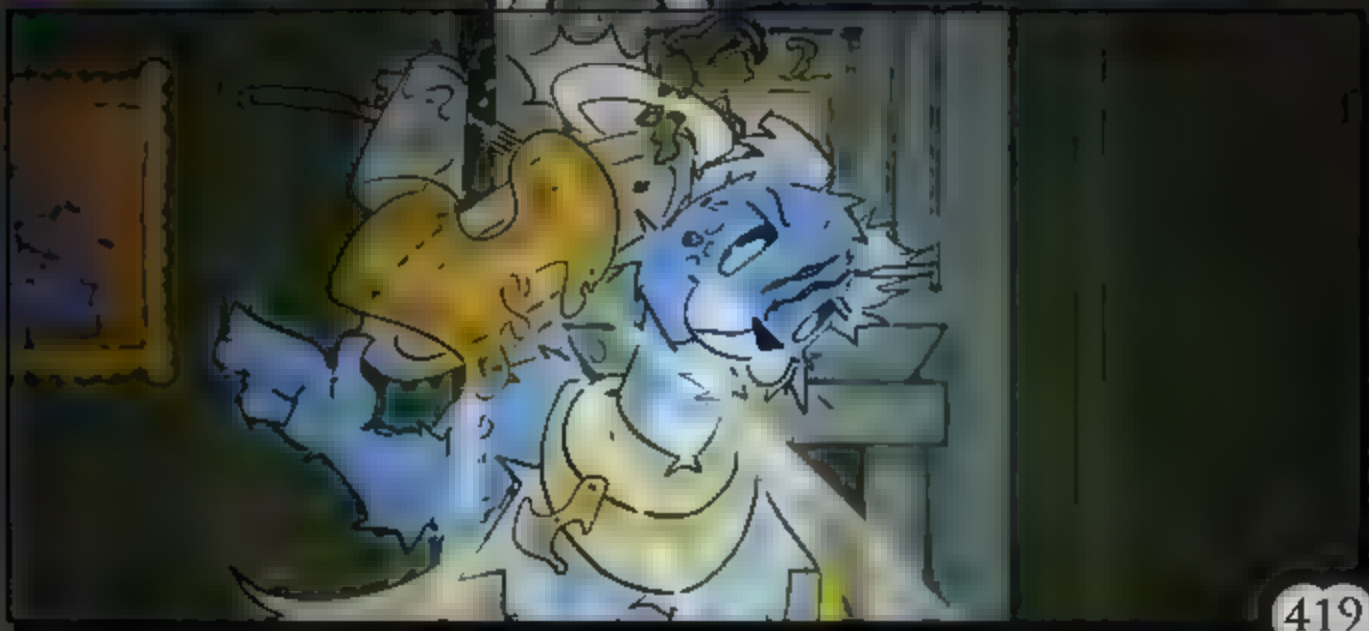
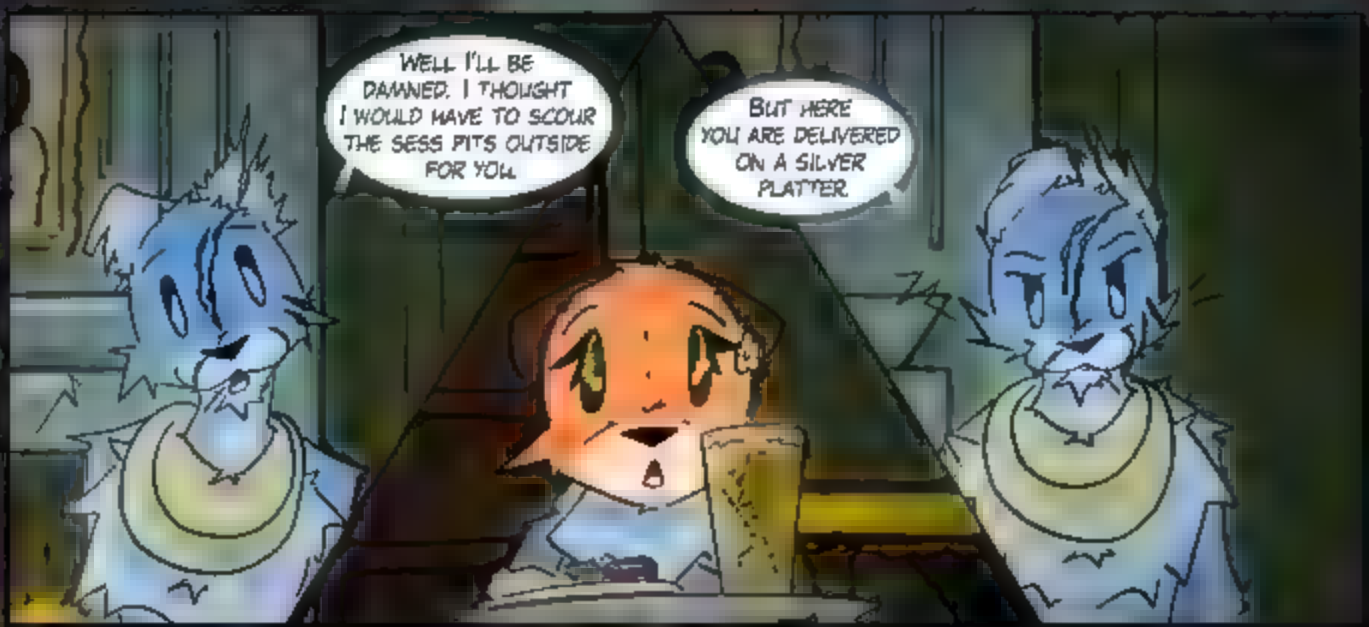
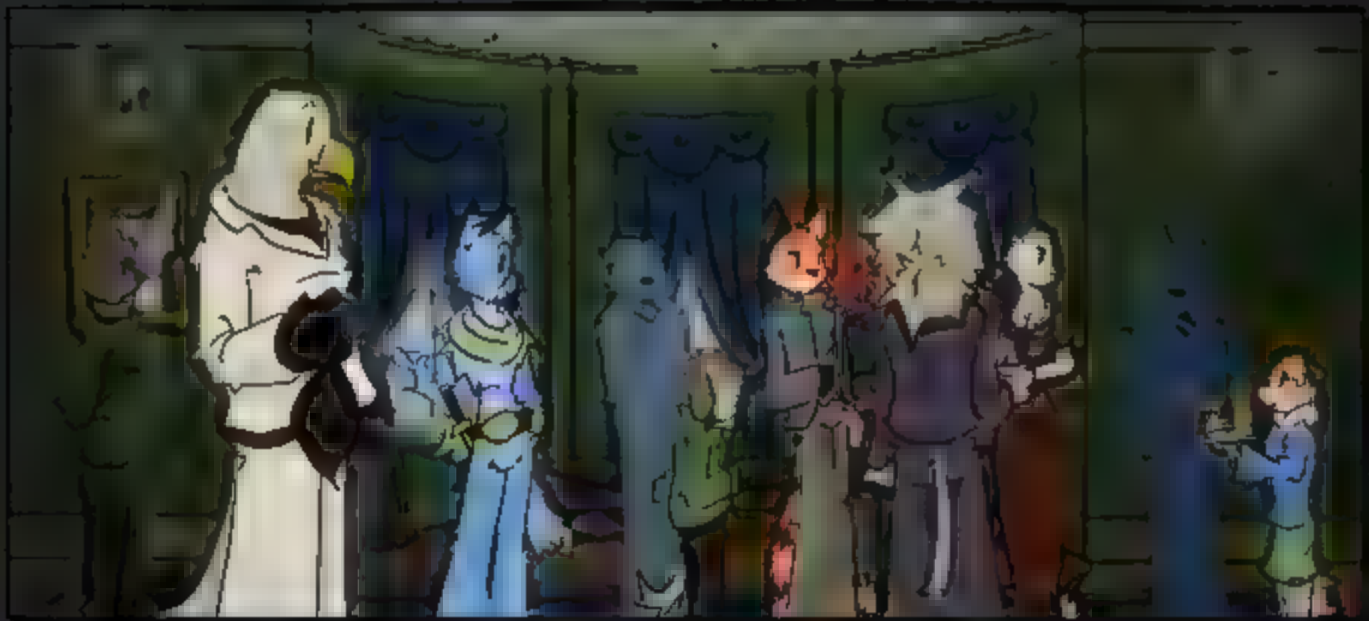


IF YOUR ARMY
HAS TRULY BEEN
DESTROYED THEN YOU
HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO
OFFER THIS LITTLE, GAME,
AS YOU CALL IT, CAN
DO WITH OUT YOU.



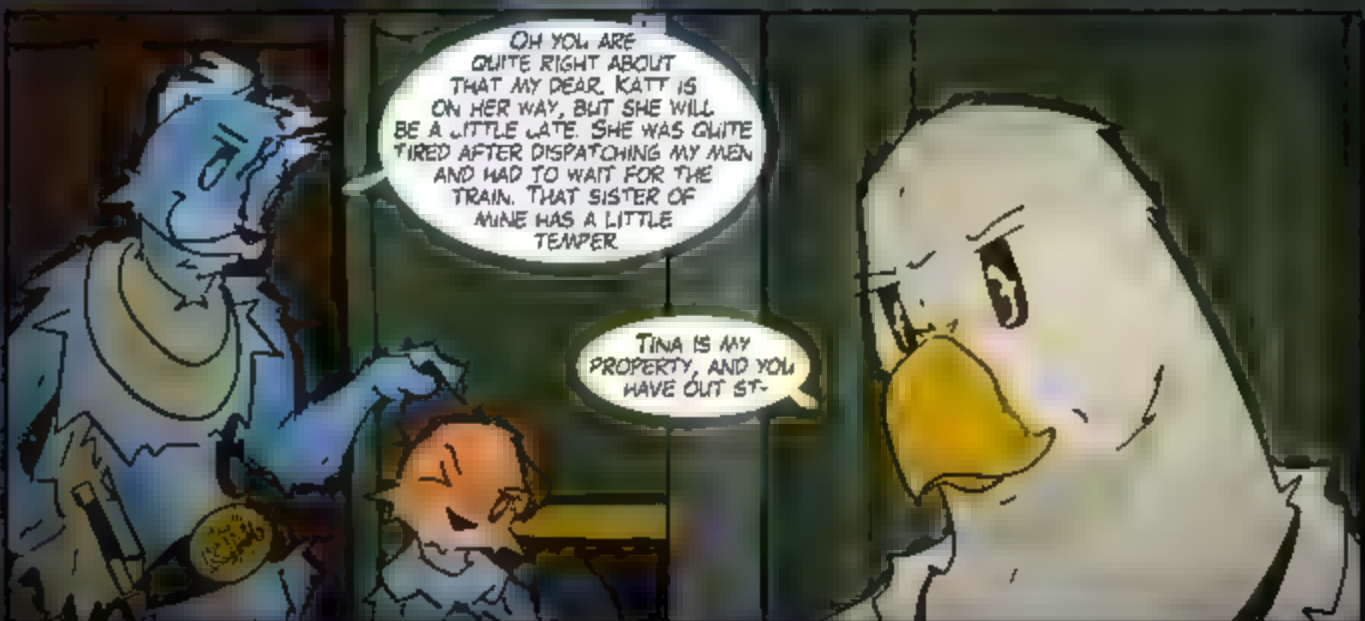
I HAD PLANNED
ON PLAYING ALONG FOR
ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE KILLING
YOU ALL. IT WOULD HAVE MEANT A
STABILIZED POSITION AND GOOD
FOUNDATION TO BUILD
SOMETHING ON.





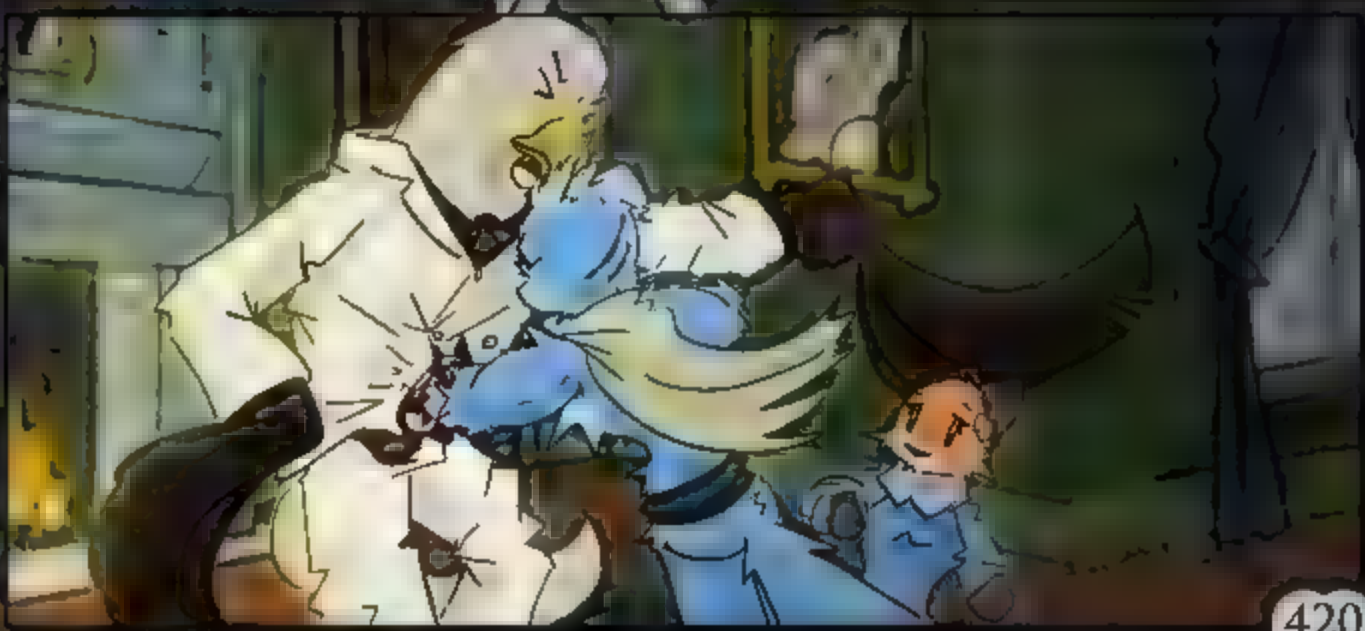


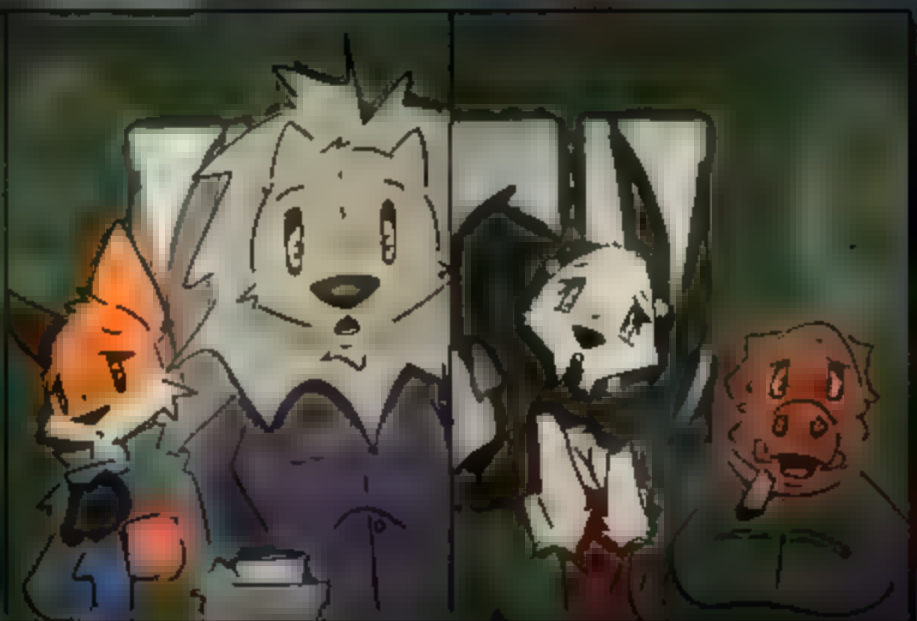
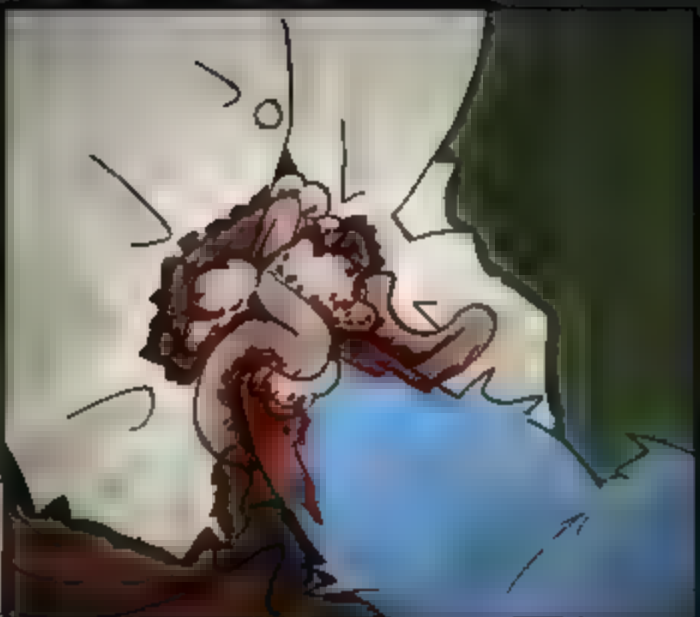
OW!
KATT WILL COME
FOR ME. YOU'LL
BE SORRY!



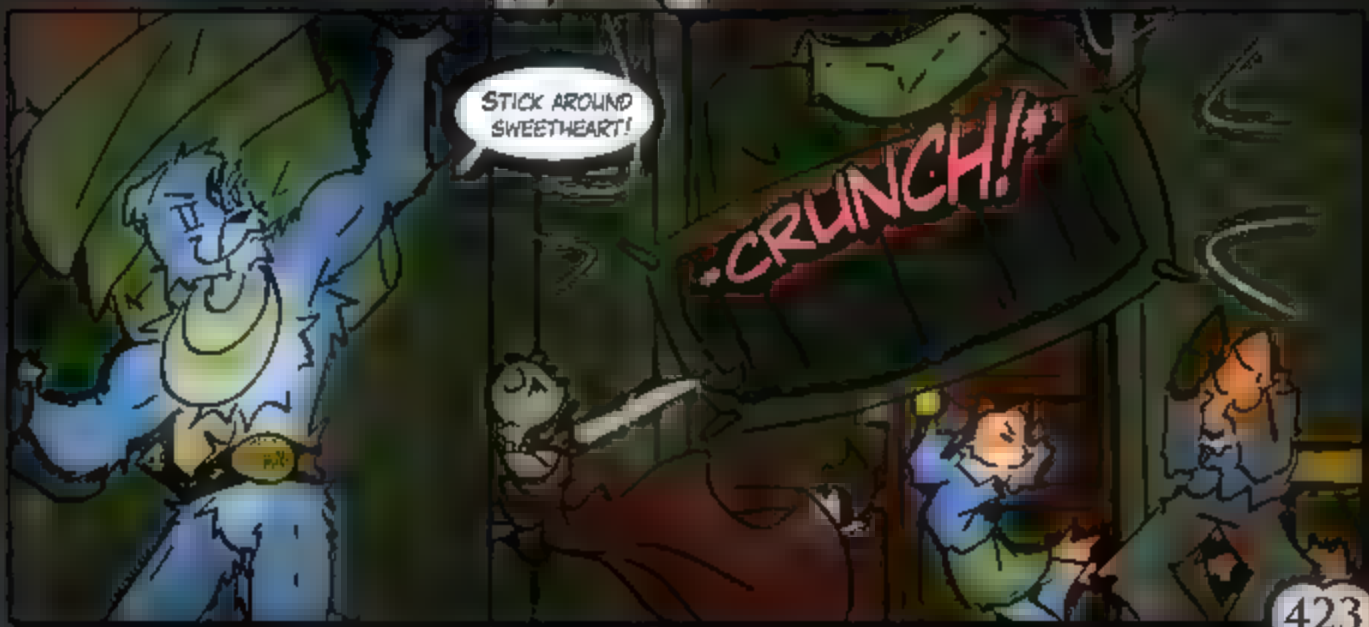
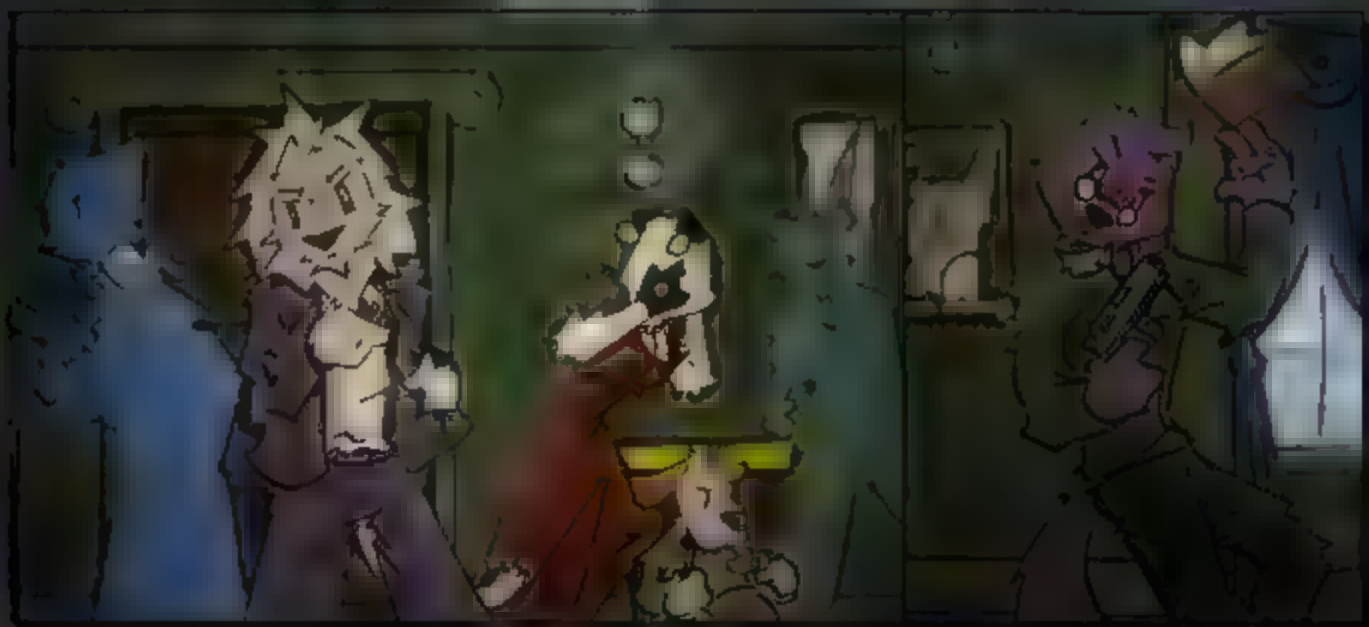
OH YOU ARE
QUITE RIGHT ABOUT
THAT MY DEAR KATT IS
ON HER WAY, BUT SHE WILL
BE A LITTLE LATE. SHE WAS QUITE
TIRED AFTER DISPATCHING MY MEN
AND HAD TO WAIT FOR THE
TRAIN. THAT SISTER OF
MINE HAS A LITTLE
TEMPER

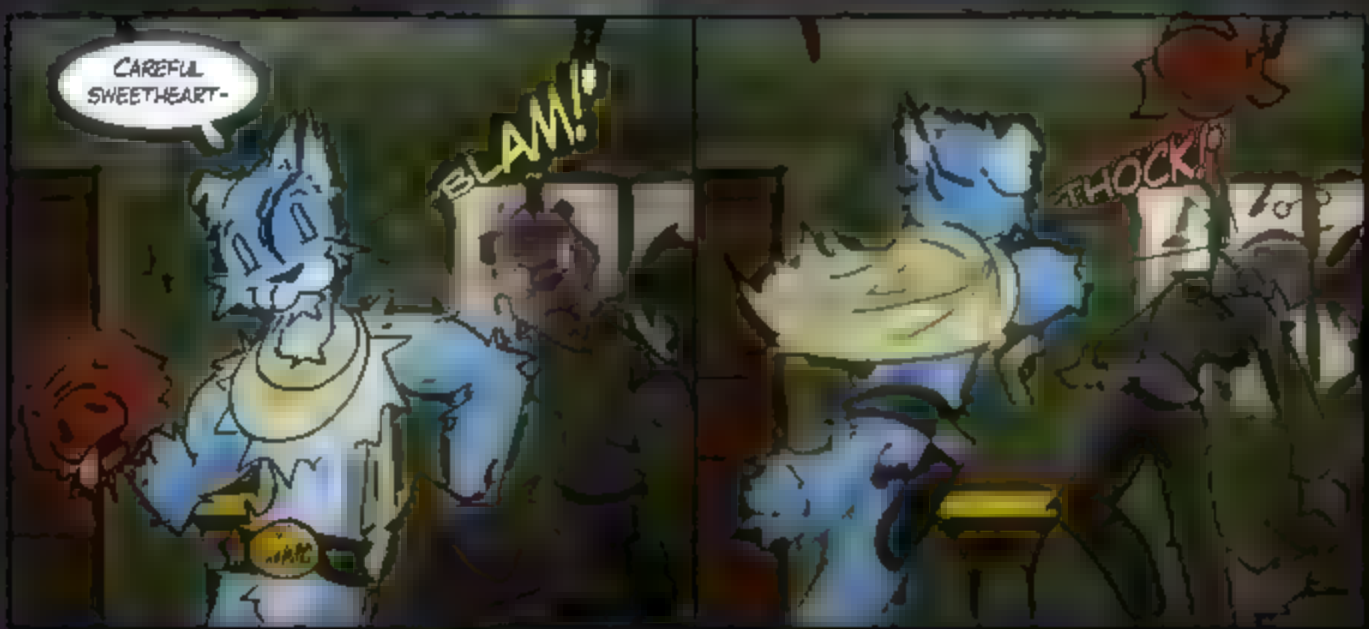
TINA IS MY
PROPERTY, AND YOU
HAVE OUT ST-













HOW DOES
THIS GOT

DO I START
FROM ONE
HUNDRED?

ONE HUNDRED,
NINETY-NINE, NINETY-EIGHT,
NINETY-SEVEN...

NINETY-SIX,
NINETY-FIVE, NINETY-FOUR,
NINETY-THREE...

WHAM!

WHAM!

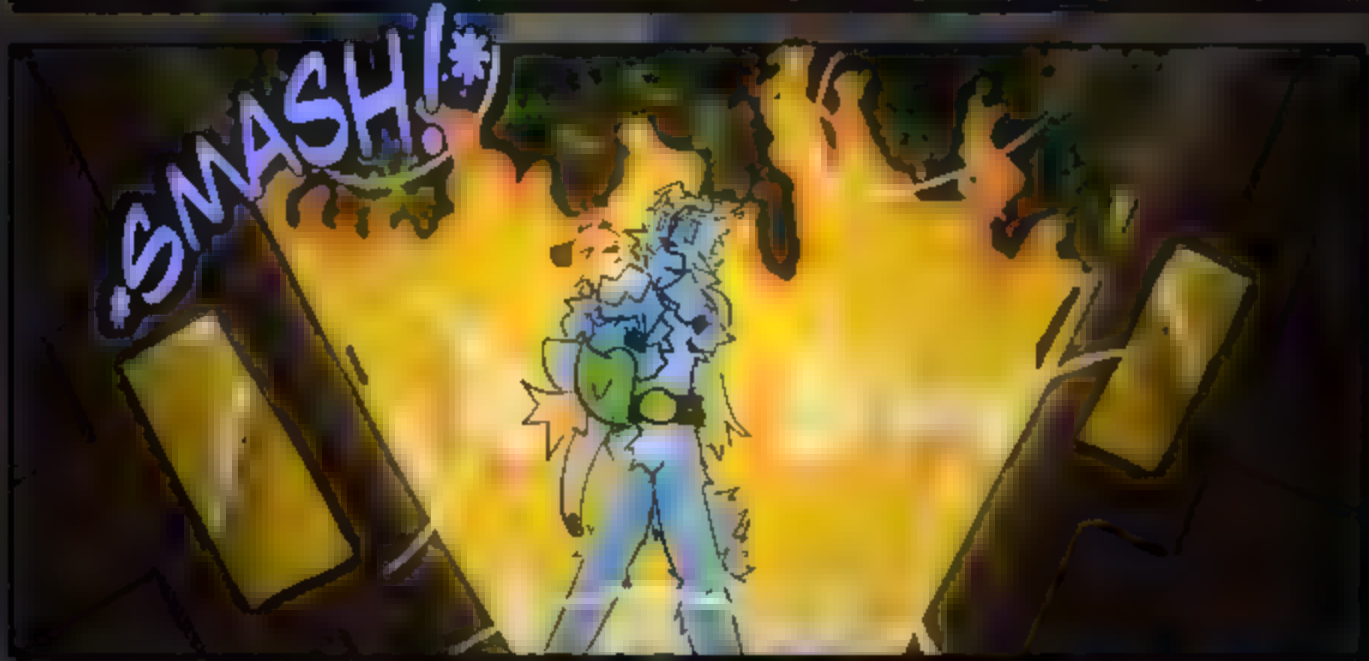
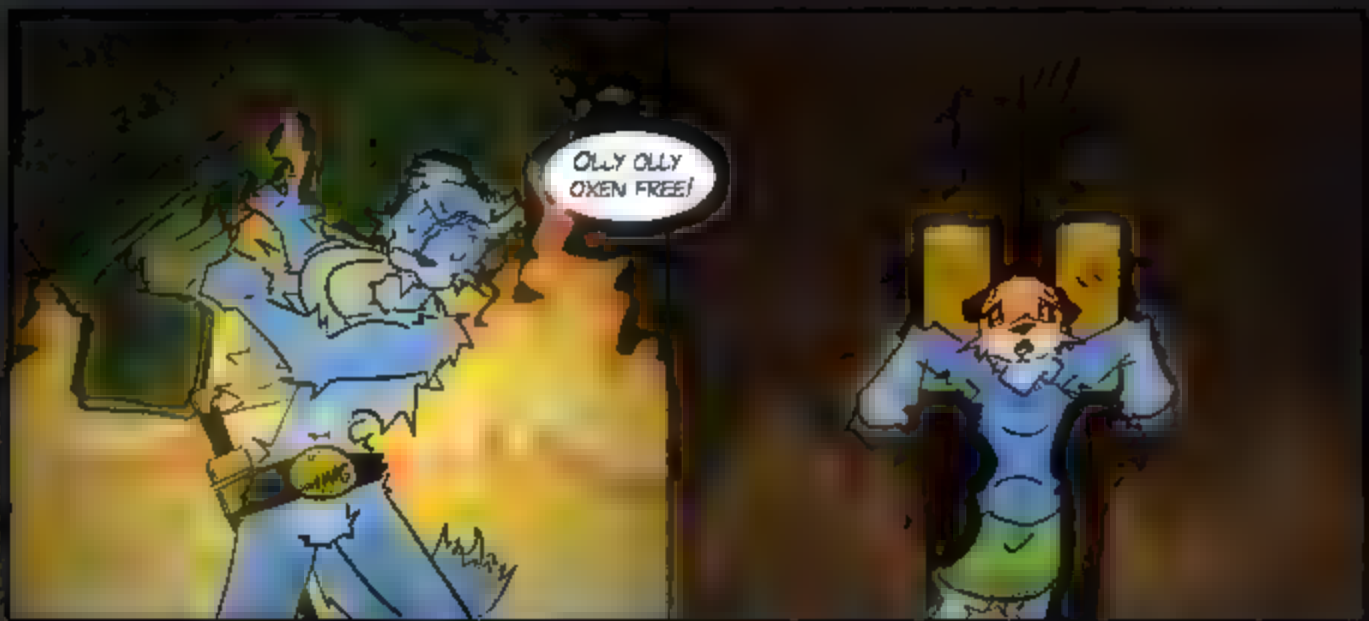
WHAM!

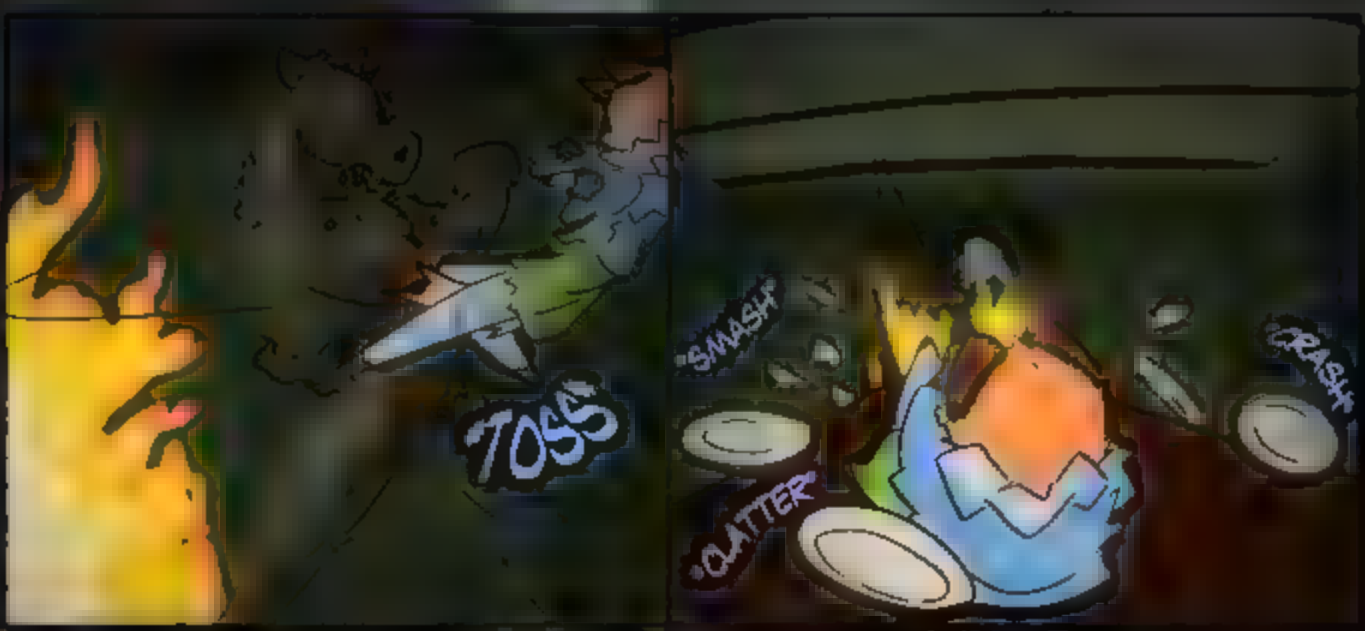
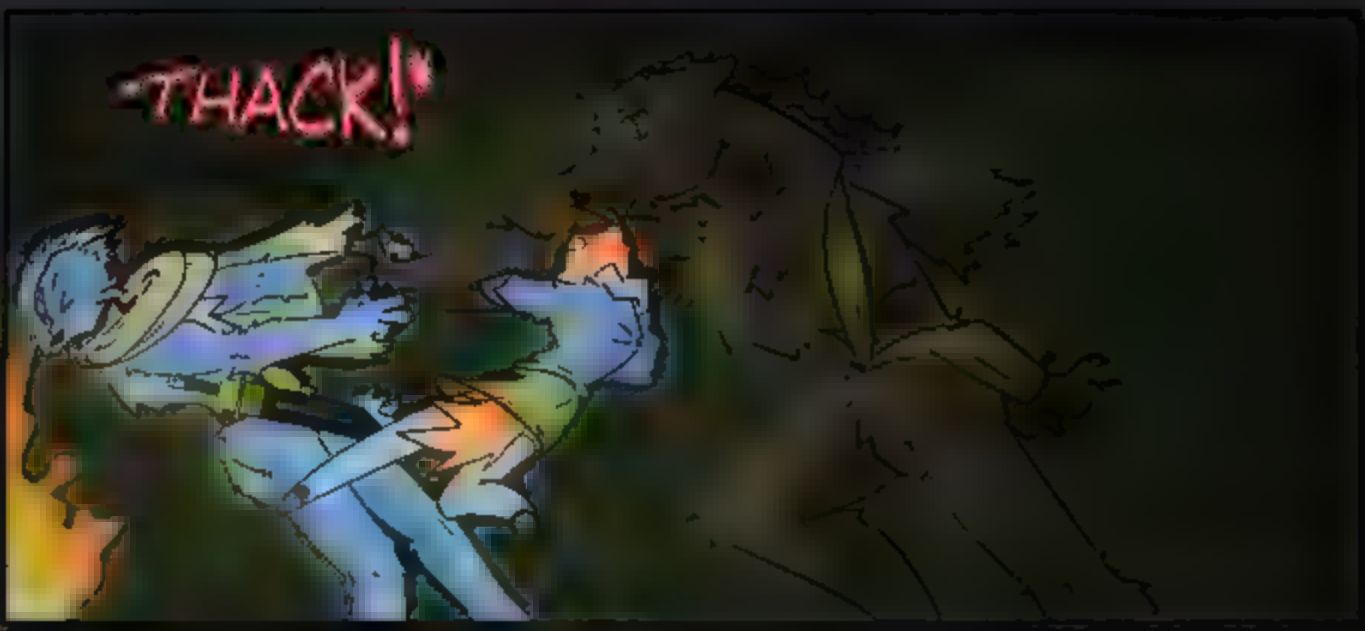
NINETY-TWO,
NINETY-ONE, TINA HUM,
CUTE. NINETY, EIGHTY-NINE
EIGHTY-EIGHT..

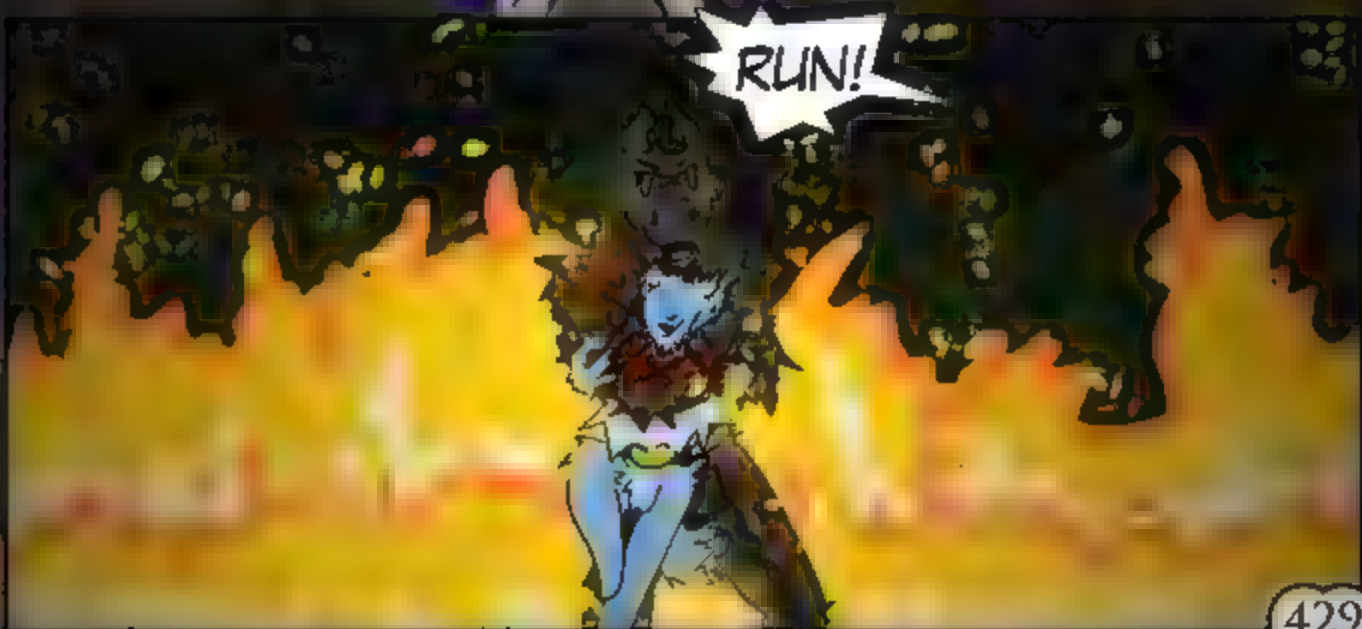
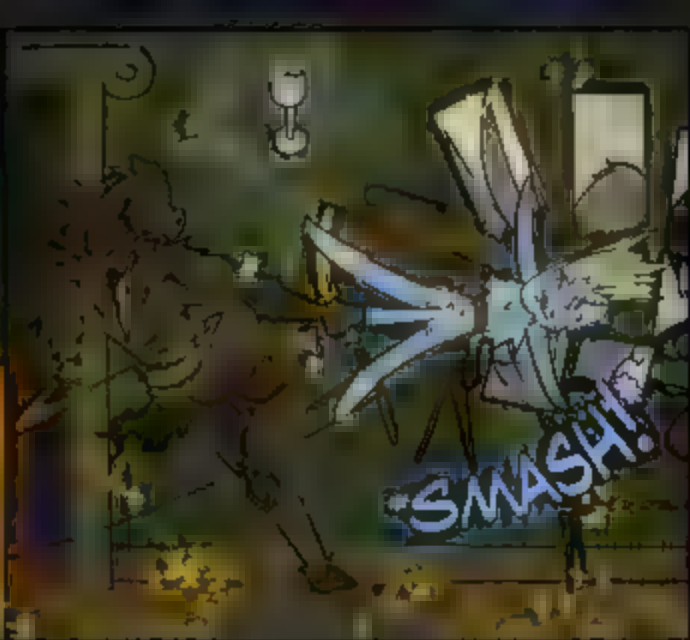
TINA!
ARE YOU IN
THERE?

ALICE?

I'M HERE!
HELP STALWORT!
HELP ME, HE'S









ALICE...
I'M COMING HONEY,
HOLD ON.



BOOM!*







RUMMMMMBLE

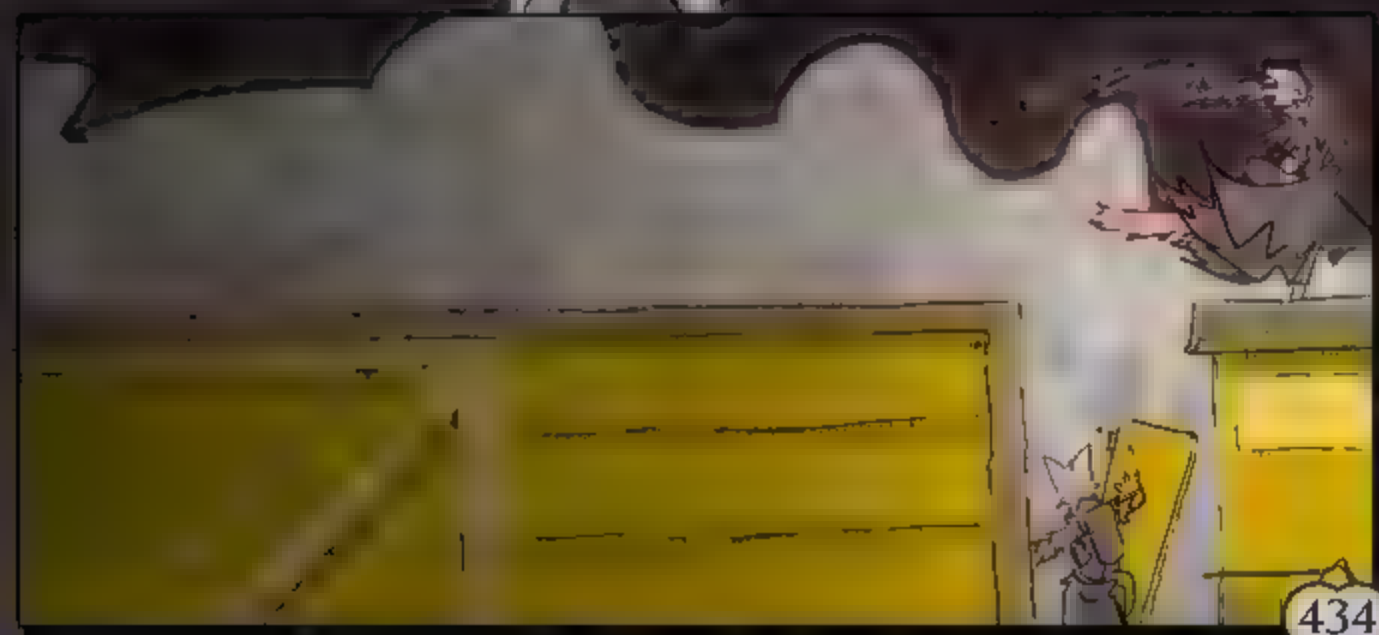
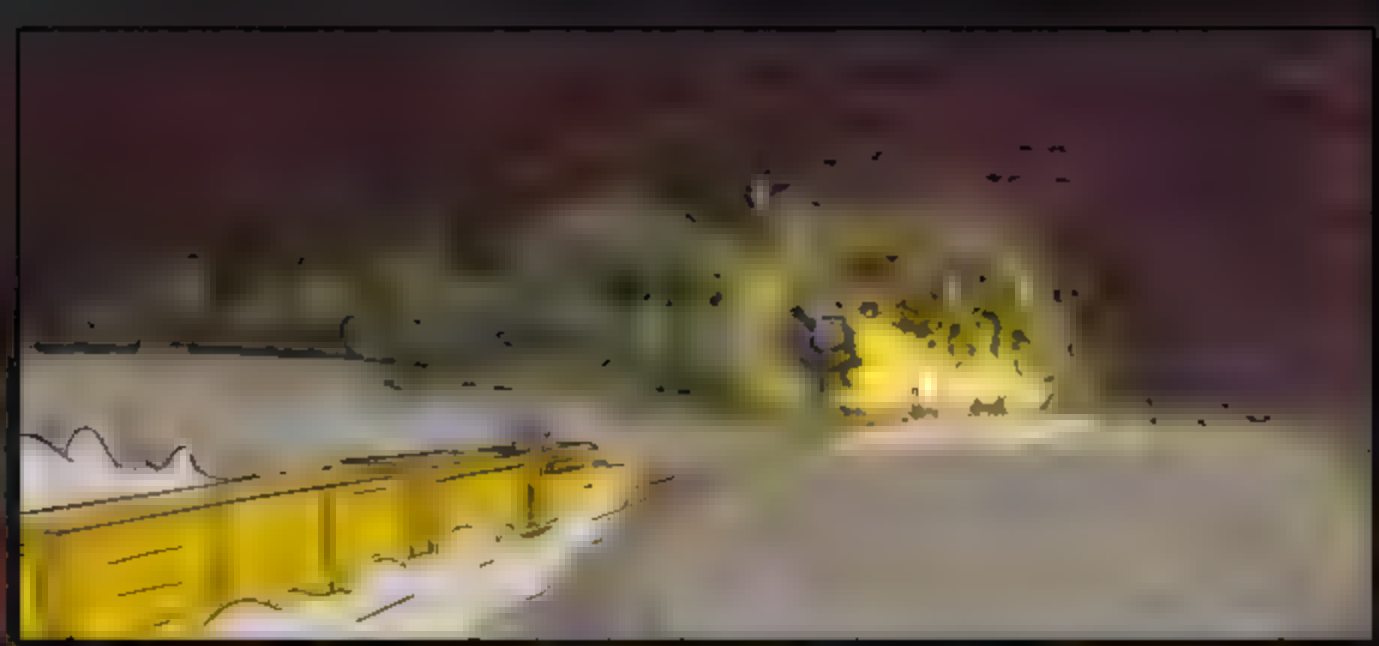
CRACK

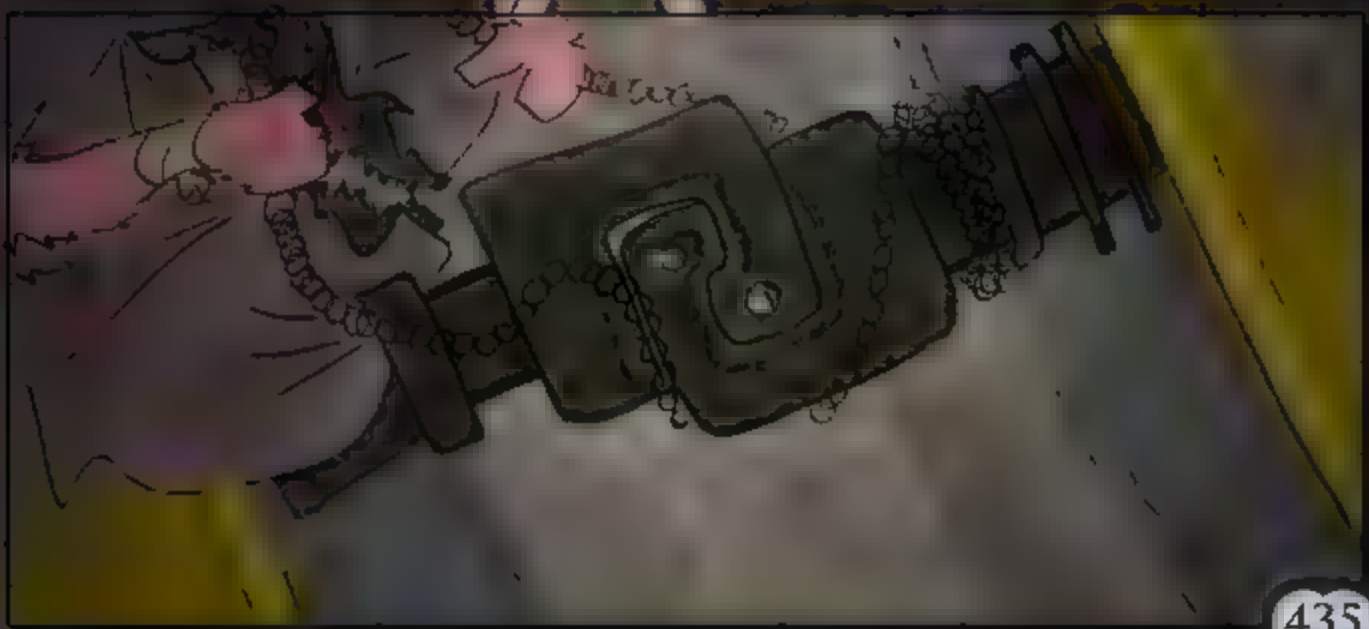
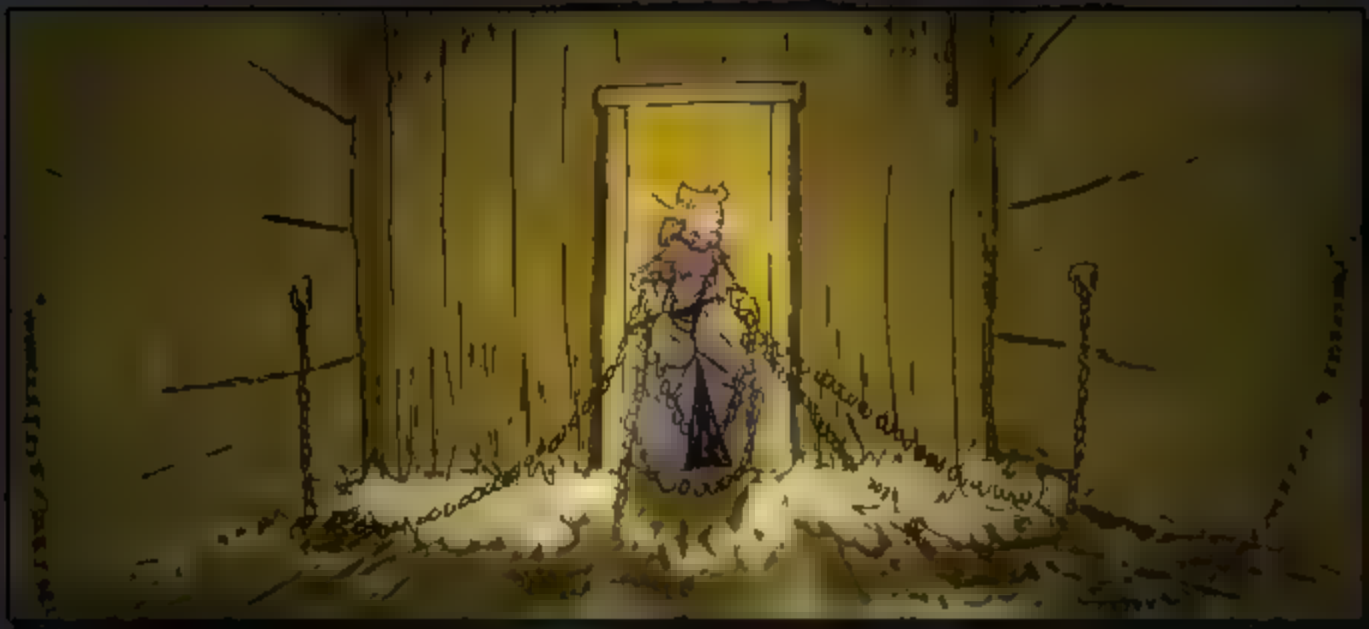
CRACK

CRRUMMMBLE

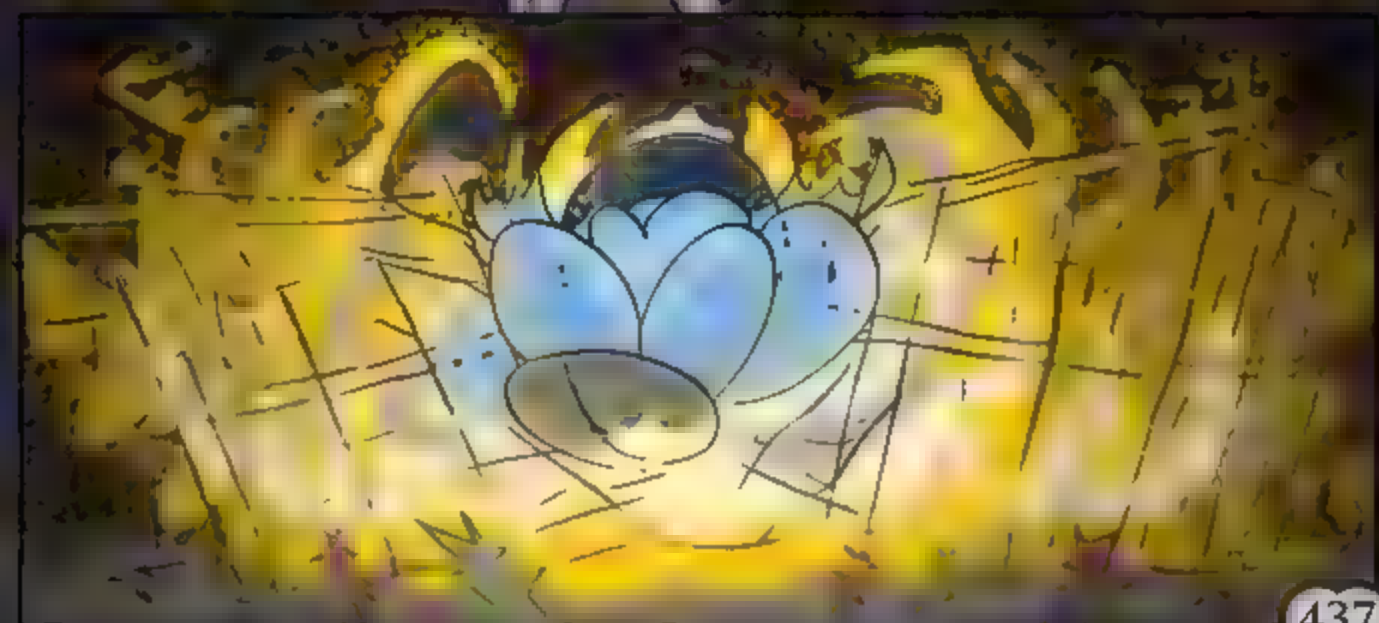
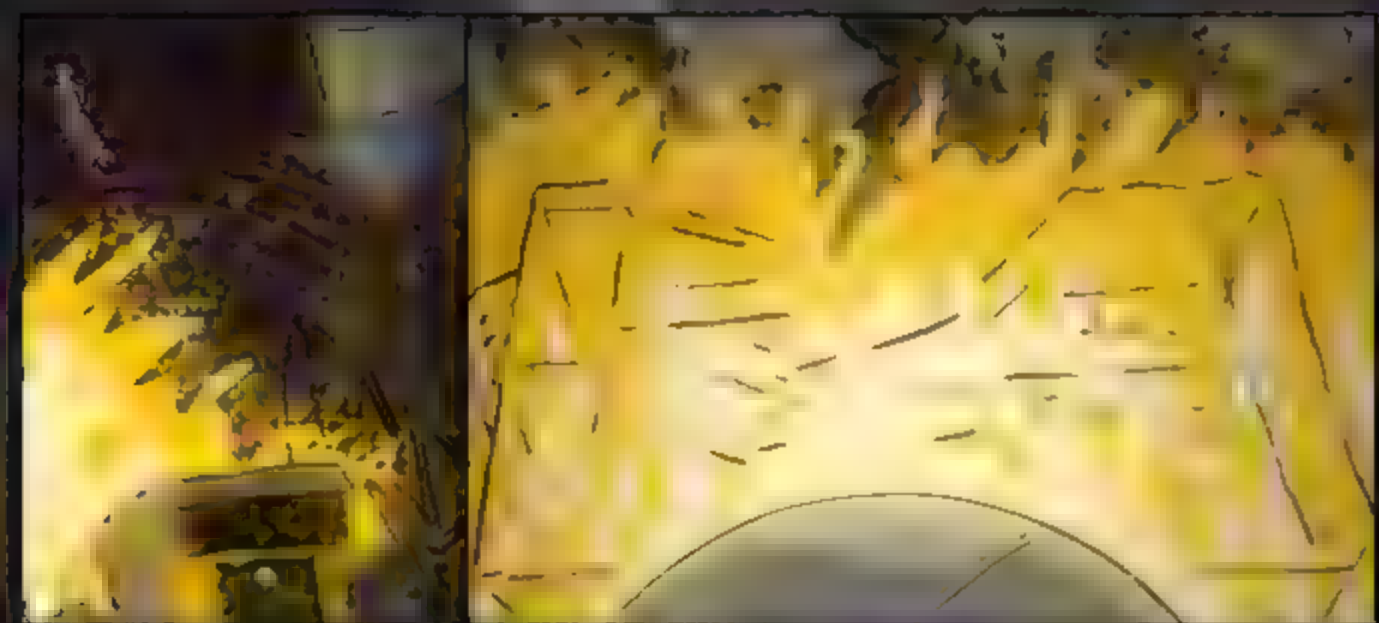
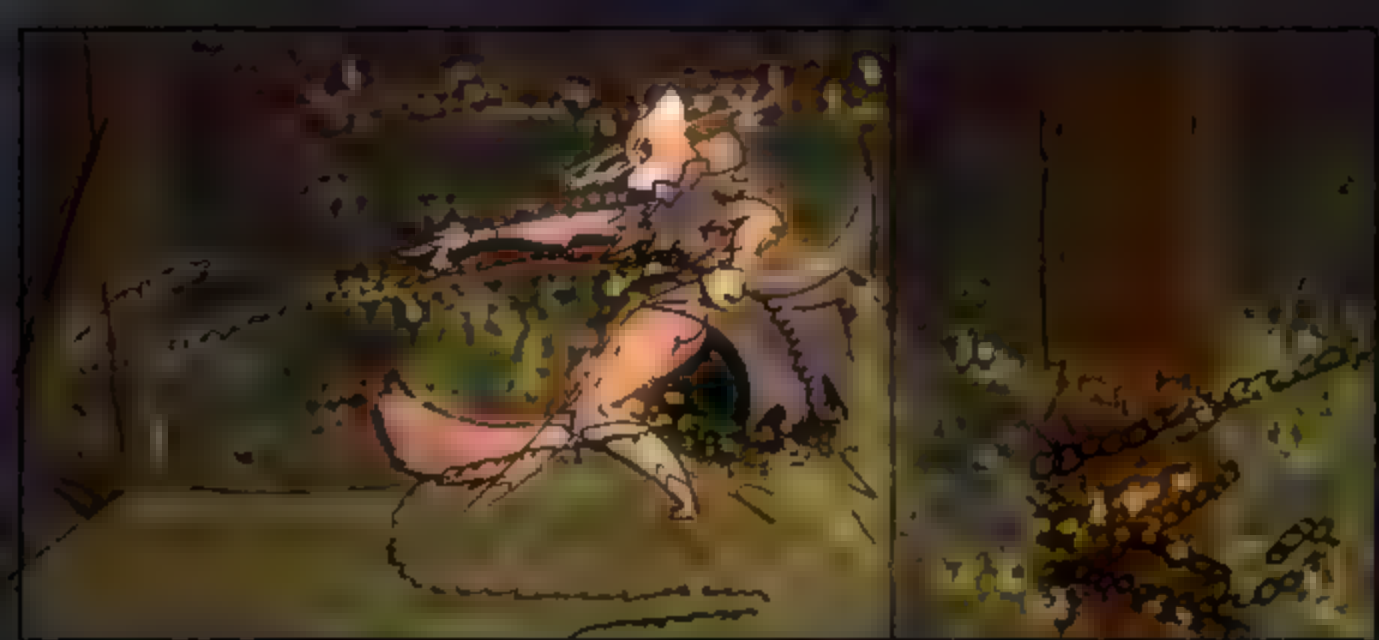
TRAIN?

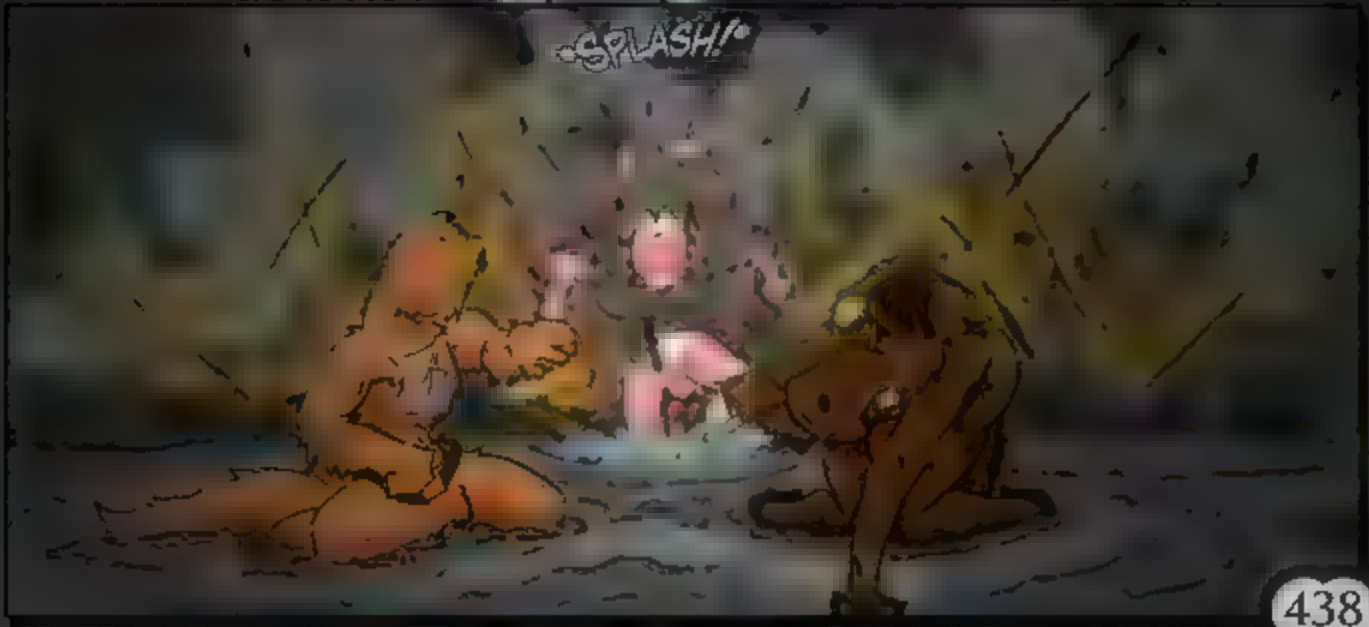
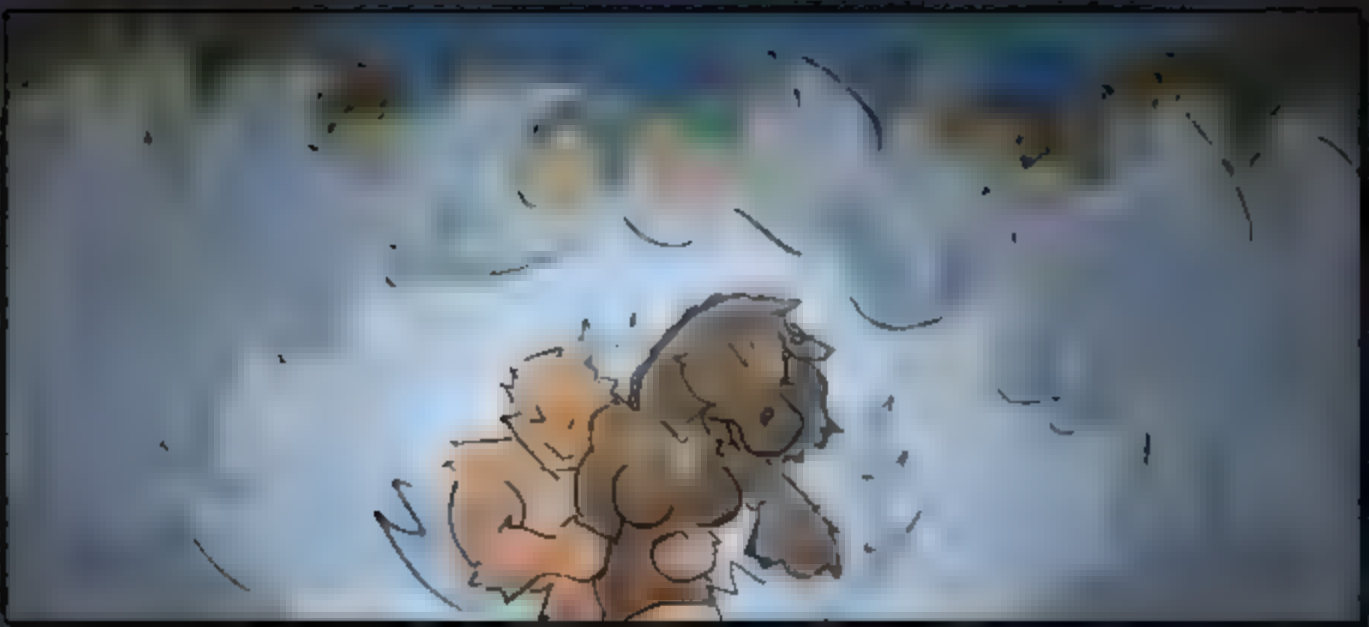
WERRRRNT
WERRRRNT

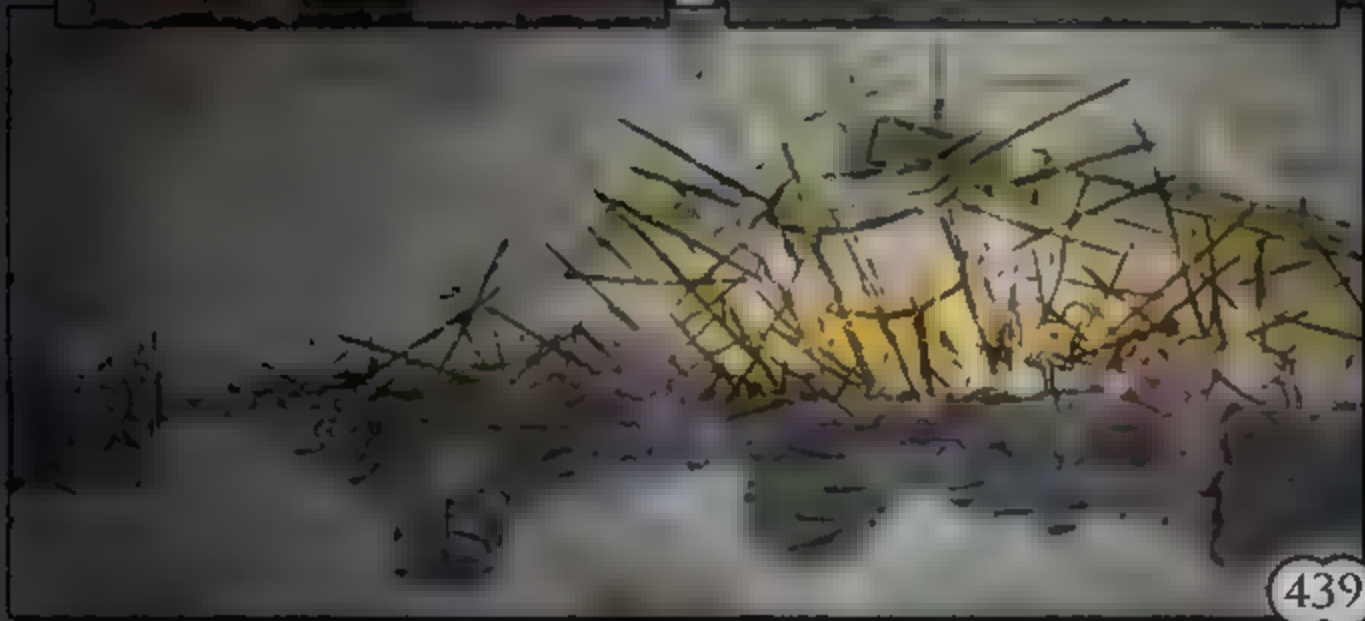






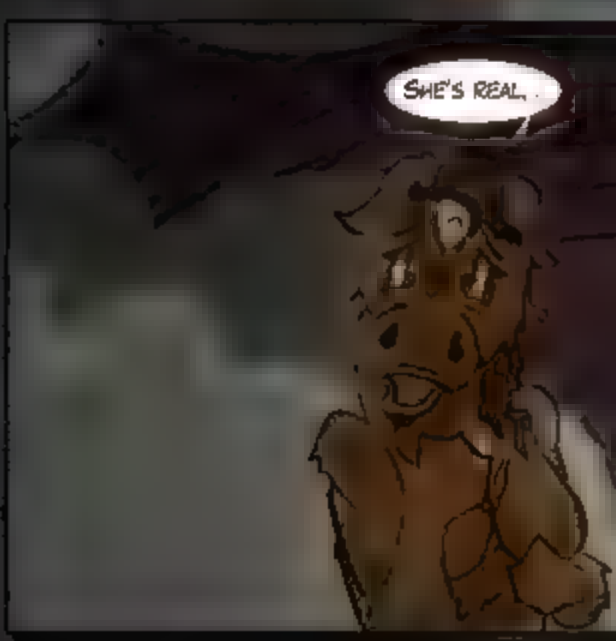








ALICE!
ALICE! IT'S
KATT HONEY, I AM
HERE! ALICE



SHE'S REAL.

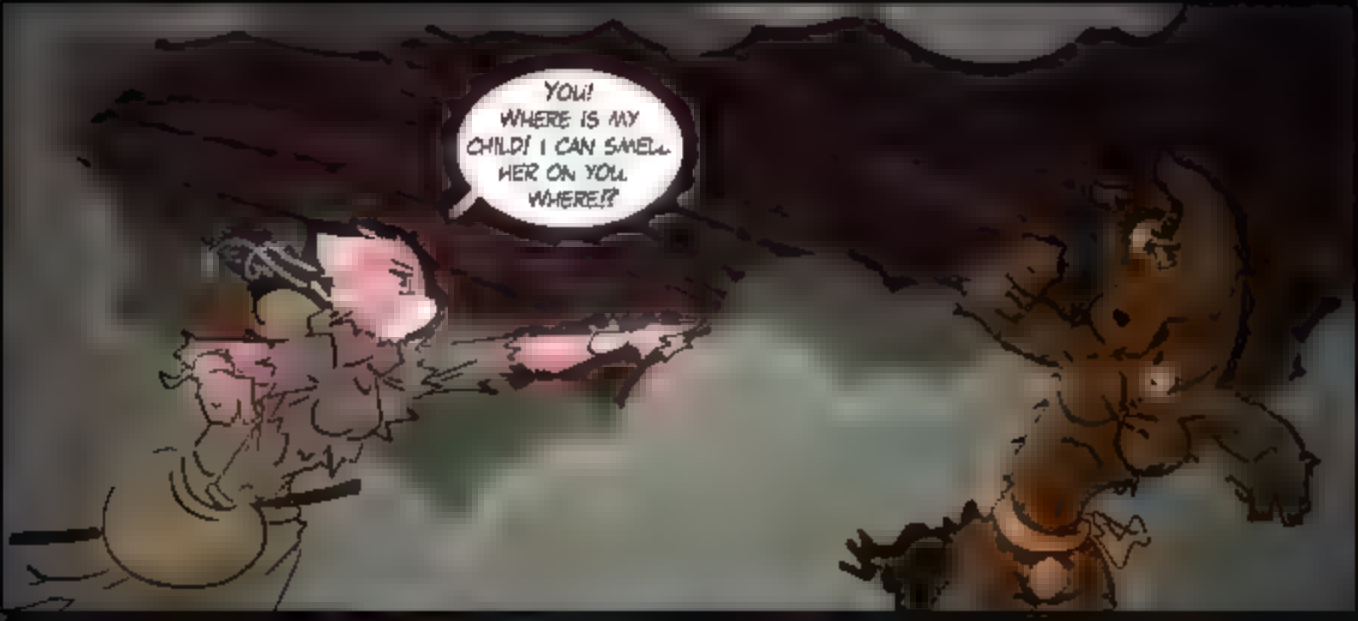


SHE'S BACK

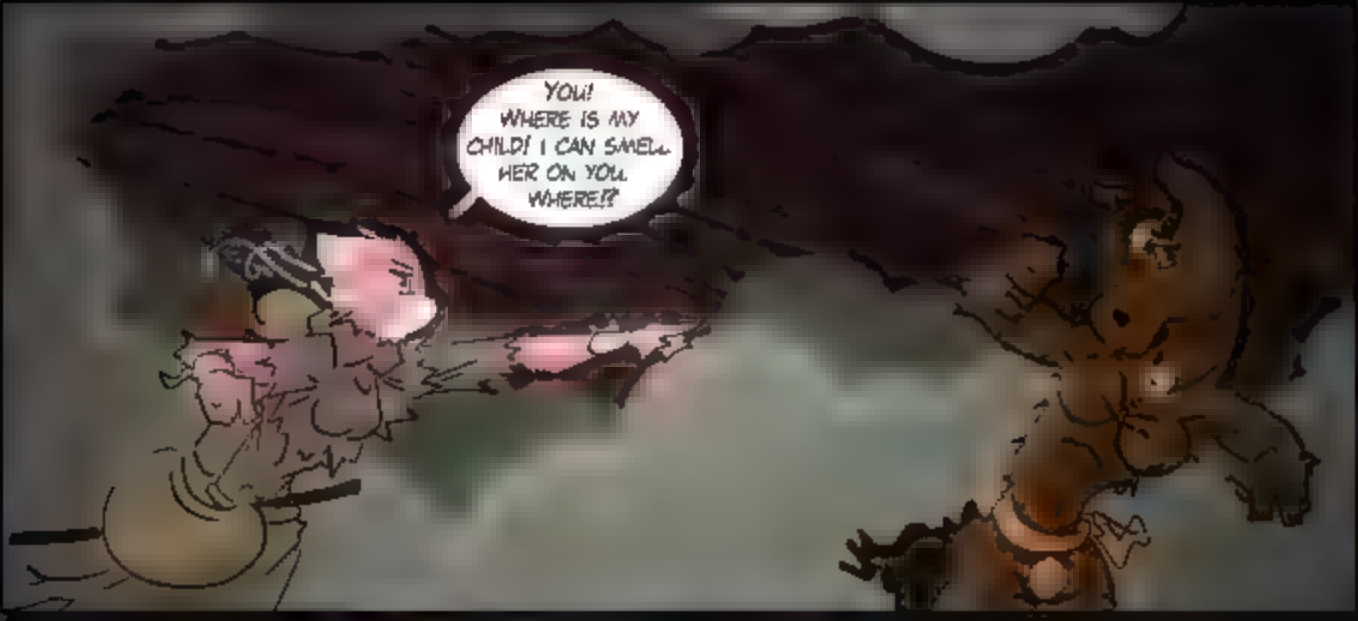


•SNIFF•
•SNIFF•

ALICE?

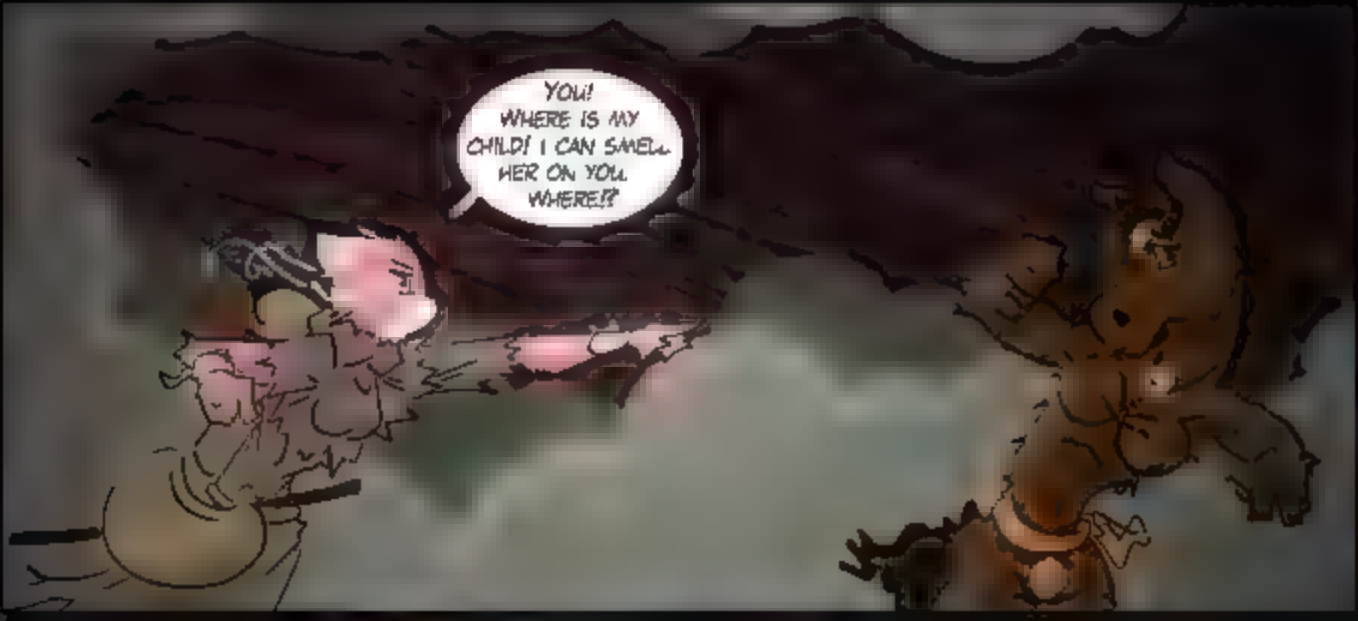


YOU!
WHERE IS MY
CHILD! I CAN SMELL
HER ON YOU.
WHERE?!



SH-SHE WAS
PUT TO WORK IN
THE HOUSE, WHEN THE
FIRE BROKE OUT MY
MATE WENT IN
TO GET HER.

...



ALICE!

MY GOD...

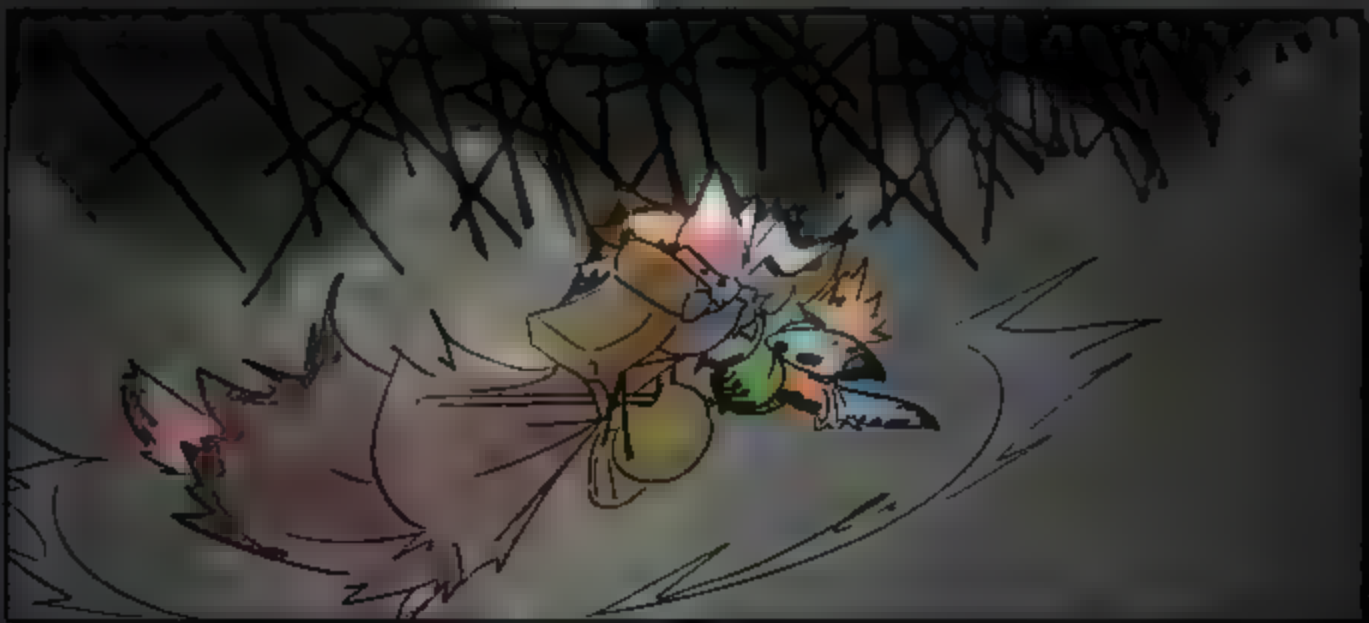
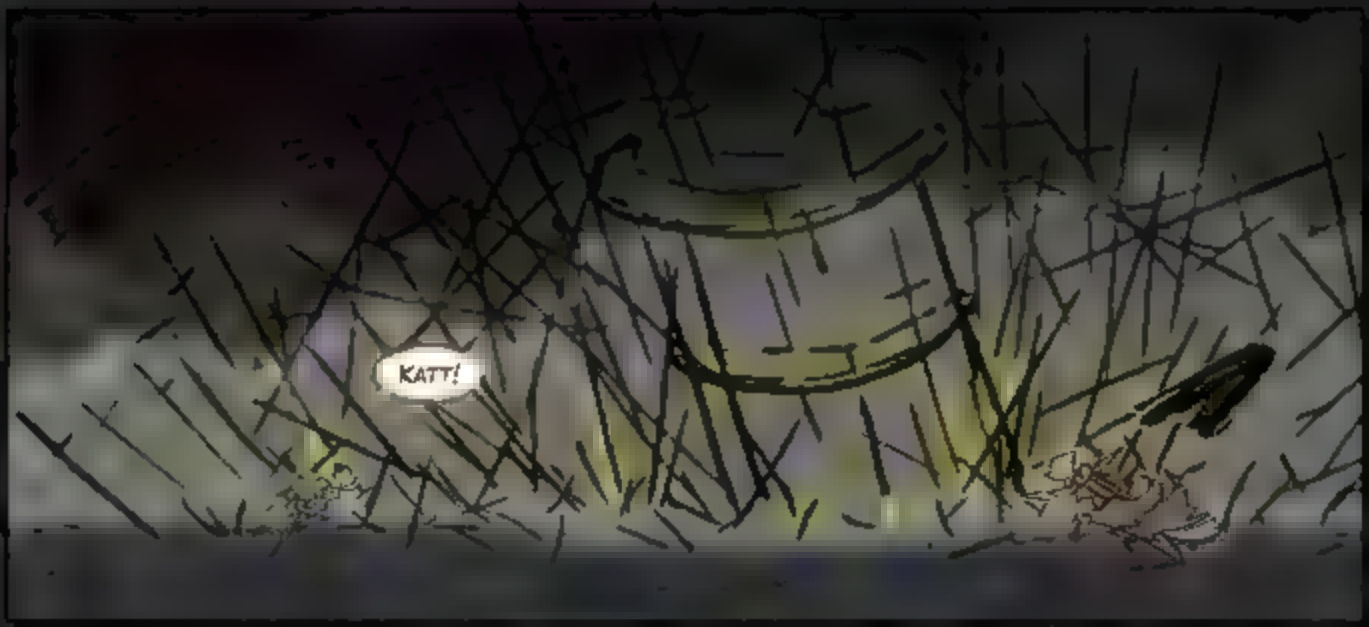
BY THE
WEAVER...

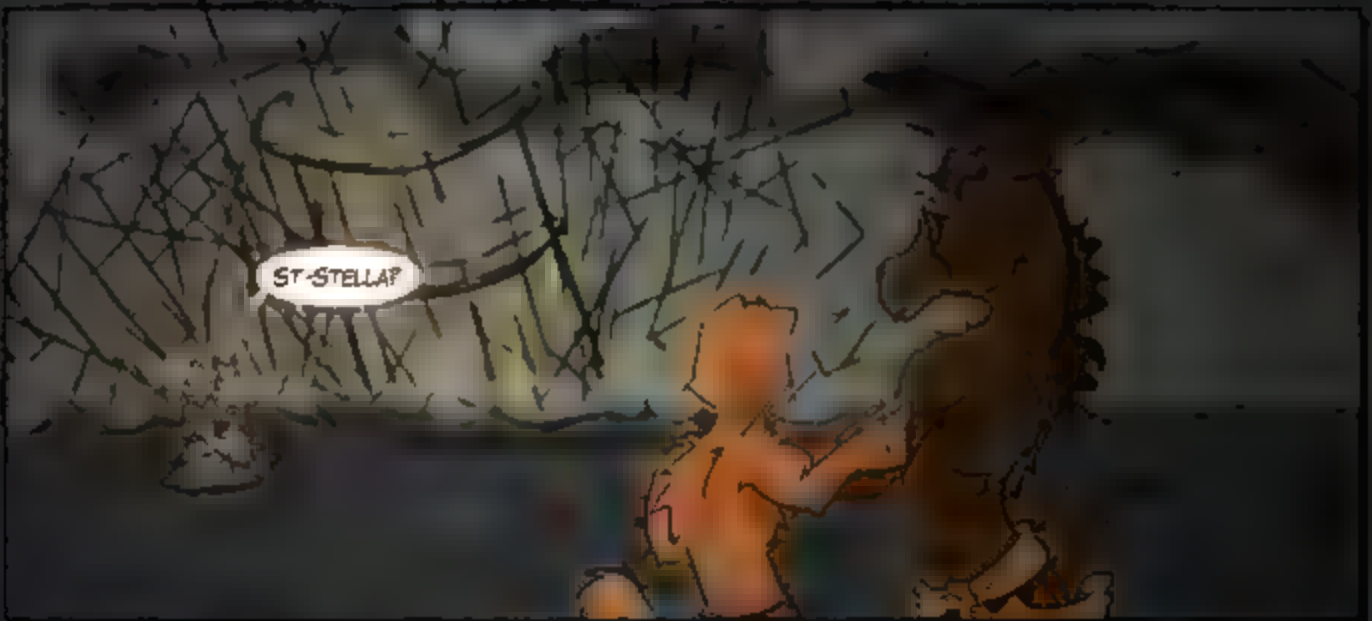
ALICE!

ALICE!
AL-

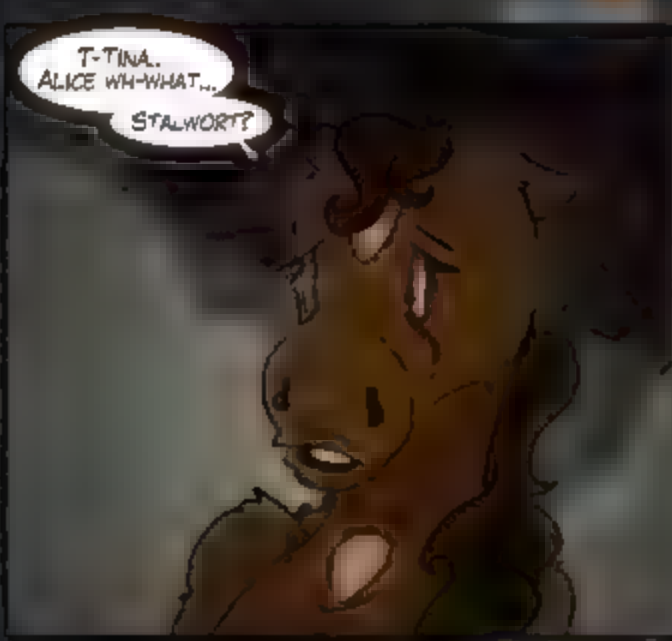
ALICE?





A character with orange hair and a dark, spiky collar is shown from the chest up, looking towards the left. The background is dark and filled with jagged, rock-like structures.

ST-STELLAP

A close-up of a character's face, partially obscured by a dark, spiky collar. The character has a concerned expression.

T-TINA.
ALICE WH-WHAT...
STALWORT?

Two characters are shown from the chest up. On the left is a pink character with a large, pointed ear. On the right is an orange character with a similar pointed ear. They are both looking at each other with expressions of surprise or concern.

HE-HE SAVED
ME FROM...

ALICE?

A close-up of a character's face, partially obscured by a dark, spiky collar. The character has a concerned expression.

COLE CAME
AND STARTED KILLING
EVERYONE. THEN THE FIRE
STARTED AND HE TRIED TO
CATCH ME. BUT STALWORT
STOPPED HIM.

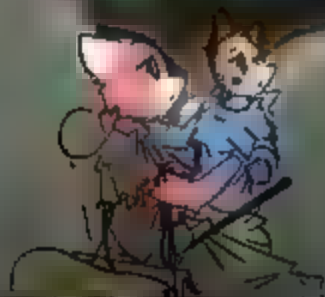
STALWORT
JUMPED INTO THE
FIRE HOLDING COLE
TO SAVE ME.

WUH-WUH-WUH
SNIFF-WHAP

BATTLE OF
LOKELY MA'AM.

NUMBER
NINETY-THREE. AT
YOUR COMMAND

I KNOW
YOU...



MY MEMORY
HAS NOT BEEN
ENTIRELY RELIABLE
LATELY, PERHAPS I
WAS MISTAKEN.



WE COULD
USE A PLACE
TO REST

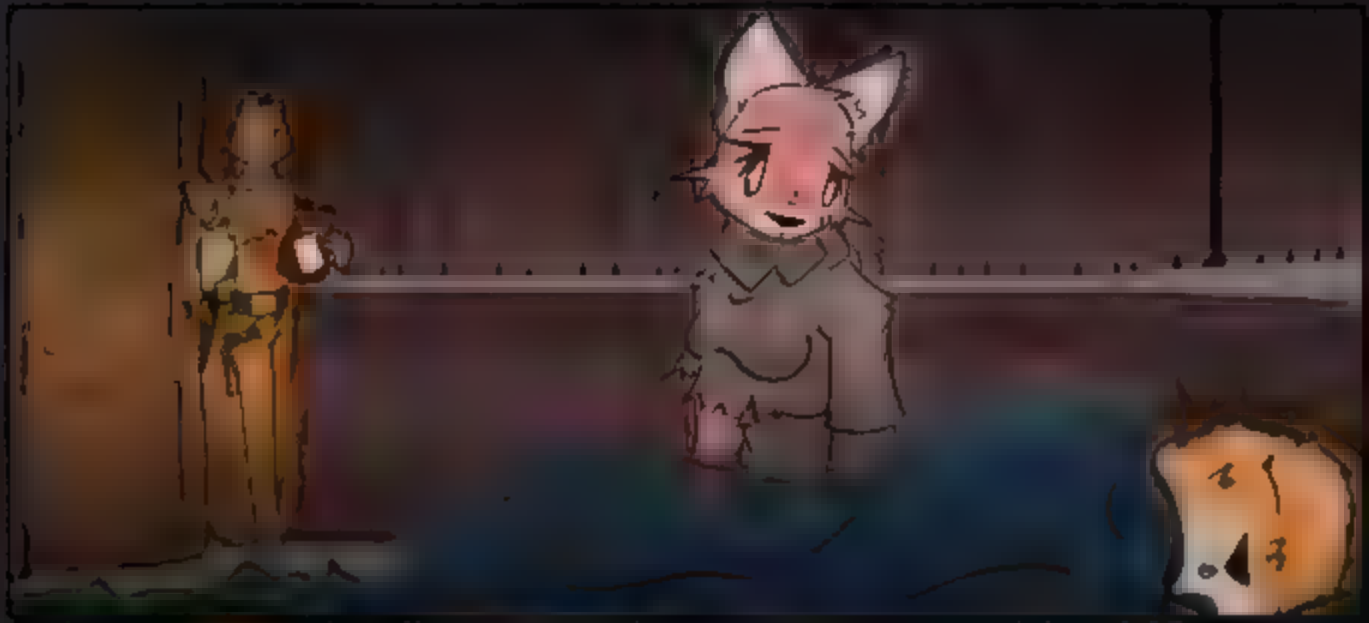


COME, I
THINK WE ARE
DONE HERE
TONIGHT

STELLA?
STELLA?

YES...
I'M... I'M
COMING.





YOU SHOULD
GET SOME SLEEP,
YOU HAVE NOT MOVED
SINCE SHE PASSED
OUT MA'AM

WHAT'S GOING
ON OUTSIDE?

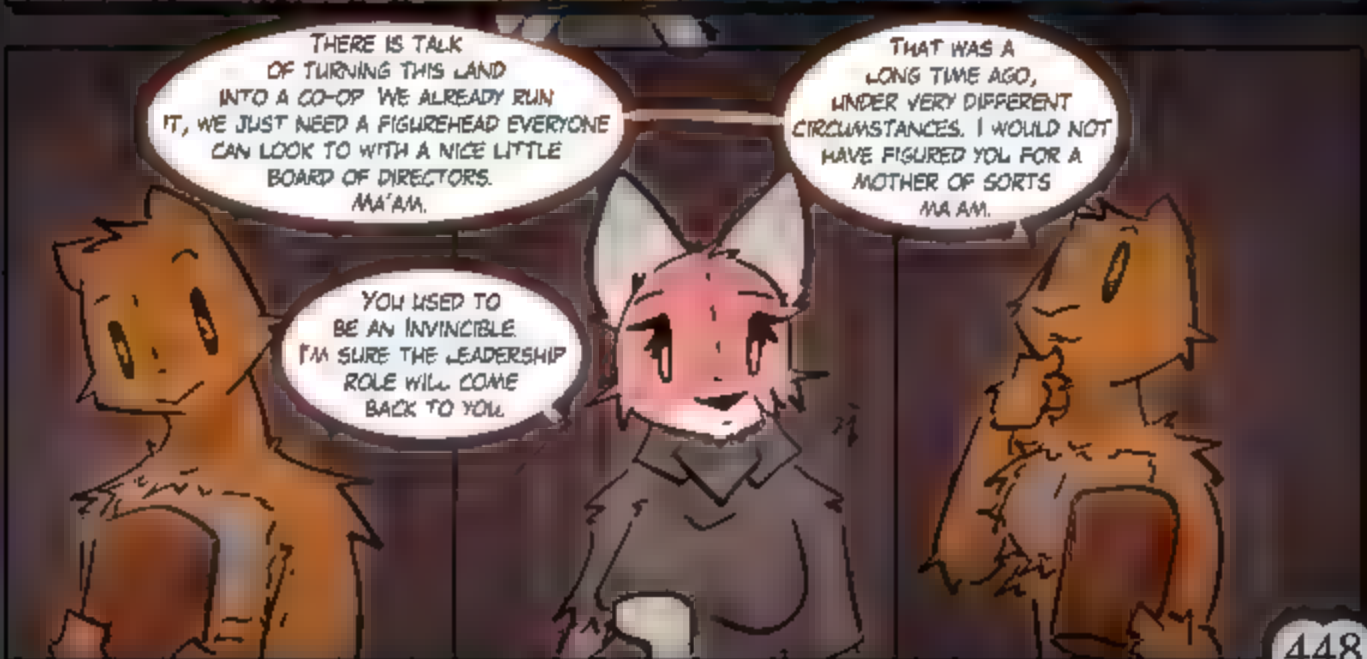
THE GUARDS
HAVE EITHER RUN
OFF OR JOINED
THE FREED



THERE IS TALK
OF TURNING THIS LAND
INTO A CO-OP WE ALREADY RUN
IT, WE JUST NEED A FIGUREHEAD EVERYONE
CAN LOOK TO WITH A NICE LITTLE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
MA'AM.

THAT WAS A
LONG TIME AGO,
UNDER VERY DIFFERENT
CIRCUMSTANCES. I WOULD NOT
HAVE FIGURED YOU FOR A
MOTHER OF SORTS
MA'AM.

YOU USED TO
BE AN INVINCIBLE
I'M SURE THE LEADERSHIP
ROLE WILL COME
BACK TO YOU.





SAYS THE INVINCIBLE TURNED SLAVE

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN SLAVES, MA'AM

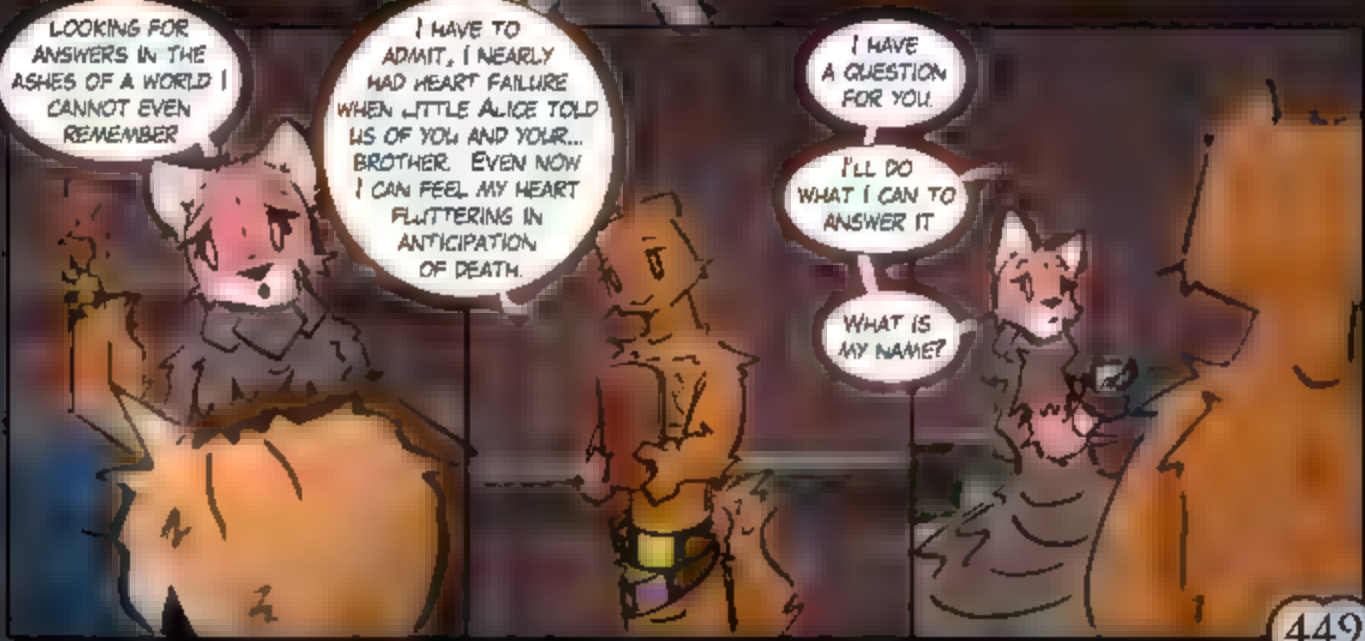


MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION MA'AM?

AS LONG AS YOU STOP WITH THE DREADFUL FORMALITIES.

I DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW TO ASK IT

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERET?



LOOKING FOR ANSWERS IN THE ASHES OF A WORLD I CANNOT EVEN REMEMBER

I HAVE TO ADMIT, I NEARLY HAD HEART FAILURE WHEN LITTLE ALICE TOLD US OF YOU AND YOUR... BROTHER. EVEN NOW I CAN FEEL MY HEART FLUTTERING IN ANTICIPATION OF DEATH.

I HAVE A QUESTION FOR YOU.

I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO ANSWER IT

WHAT IS MY NAME?

I WAS PART
OF THE BATTLE.

MASSACRE
OF LOKELY, WE
WERE NOT ALLOWED
TO EVEN REFER TO EITHER
OF YOU BY ANYTHING
OTHER THEN
COLONEL.



COLE WAS
THERE AS WELL?



THE INVINCIBLES
KNEW OF THE BROTHER
AND SISTER CREATIONS, YOU
COULD SAY THEY WERE OUR
BIRTH. BEFORE WE HAD
JUST CALLED YOU THE
DOC'S BASTARDS.



BUT THOSE
WHO SAW THE
TWO OF YOU
WORK..



PRETEND YOU
DON'T EXIST



WHAT EVER
THEY DID TO ME WIPE
MY MEMORY



PROBABLY
FOR THE BEST
THERE ARE DAYS I WISH
I WOKE UP ABLE TO
START OVER.



YOUR PAST,
THOUGH FORGOTTEN
WILL ALWAYS
FIND YOU.



WHAT WILL
YOU DO ABOUT
COLE?

KILL HIM.

THAT MAY
BE MORE DIFFICULT
THAN YOU THINK.

SO I'VE SEEN,
HE ESCAPED FROM
ME BECAUSE OF MY
EXHAUSTION DURING OUR
LITTLE DISAGREEMENT
IN HIS TOWN.

WELL HE
DOESN'T HAVE
THE DOC TO SAVE
HIM LIKE THE FIRST TIME
YOU TWO WERE AT
EACH OTHERS
THROATS.

WHAT DO
YOU KNOW
ABOUT THAT?

ONLY THAT
AFTER YOU HAD
BEEN SPLIT UP, HE
GREW VERY RESENTFUL
OF THE DOC AND OUR
DEAR PRESIDENT.

HE WANTED
TO FINISH WHAT
HE STARTED, BUT
NEVER GOT
THE CHANCE.



I SERVED
UNDER HIM TWICE
AFTER THE SPLIT. HE
WAS EVEN MORE VIOLENT
IF THAT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE.
AFTER JUDGMENT DAY
I DID NOT SEE HIM
AGAIN FOR SIX MAYBE
SEVEN YEARS.

BY THAT TIME
I HAD LONG AGO
SOLD MYSELF
INTO SLAVERY.

WHY WOULD
YOU DO THAT?



PUNISHMENT
FOR MY SINS. I DO
NOT DESERVE TO LIVE
A HAPPY LIFE

I HAVE
BROUGHT SO
MUCH MISERY TO THE
WORLD. I AM TIRED OF THAT
LIFE, I AM TIRED OF THE
STRUGGLE FOR
SUPREMACY



OUTSIDE...
I WOULD JUST BE
ANOTHER BRUTE, ANOTHER
PIECE OF MUSCLE. WHEN THEY
WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT
MY TRUE SKILL SET, I
BECOME A TARGET

I AM GOOD
AT BEING A SLAVE, FOR
ONCE IN MY LIFE I AM ABLE
TO RELIEVE OTHER'S SUFFERING.
IT MAY BE A MINISCULE AMOUNT,
BUT EVEN A BREATH OF REST
IS APPRECIATED.

AS A SLAVE
I NO LONGER HAVE
TO MAINTAIN
THAT FIGHT

I AM USED
TO FOLLOWING
ORDERS, AND THE
TOUGHEST ORDER I
HAVE RECEIVED AS A
SLAVE IS, DIG
THAT HOLE

I NEED
VERY LITTLE TO
SURVIVE SO I GIVE
AWAY MY FOOD RATIONS
TO OTHERS. I RARELY
TIRE AND OFTEN
TAKE OTHER'S
WORKLOADS.

YOU CANNOT
HIDE FOREVER, THE
LAND IS RETURNING TO
LIFE AND THE PEOPLE ARE
BEGINNING TO COME
TOGETHER

AND NOW I
HAVE YOU TO BLAME
FOR FREEING ME OF MY
SELF IMPOSED
PRISON

I DO SEEM
TO UPSET THE
STATUS QUO
QUITE OFTEN

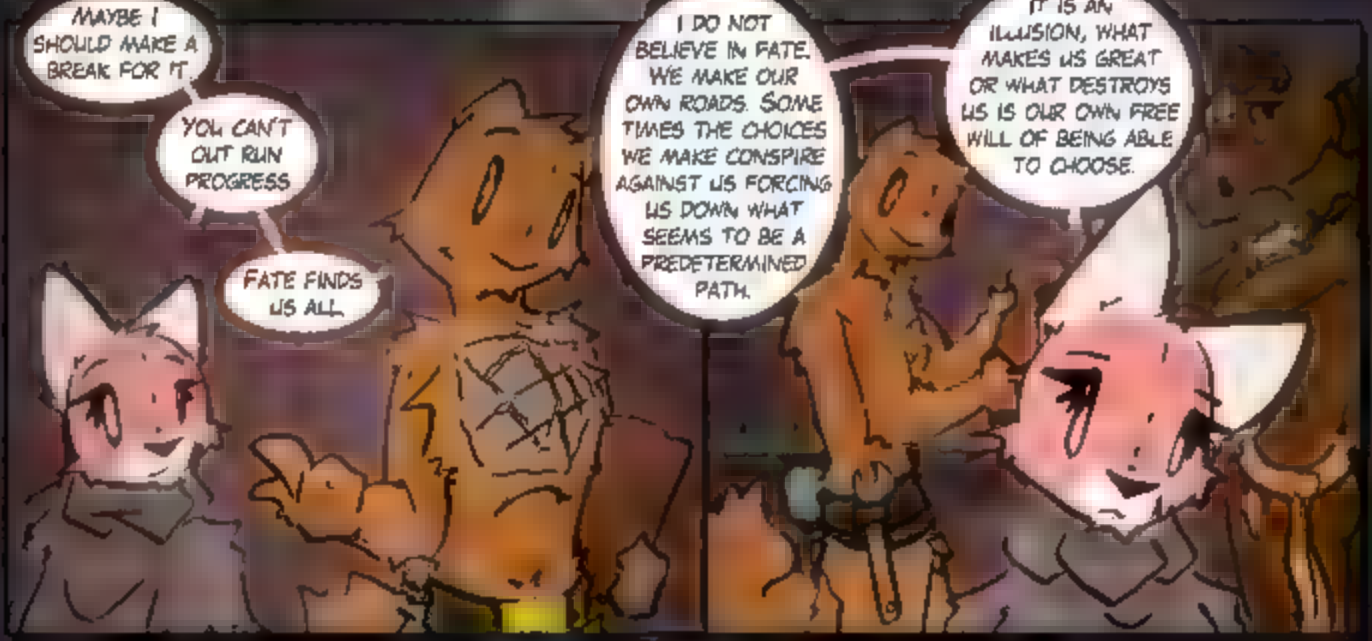
SO THE
RUMORS GO





KUSH THEY
ARE ASKING
FOR YOU.

TAKE THE
REINS AND LEAD
THEM TO
WATER



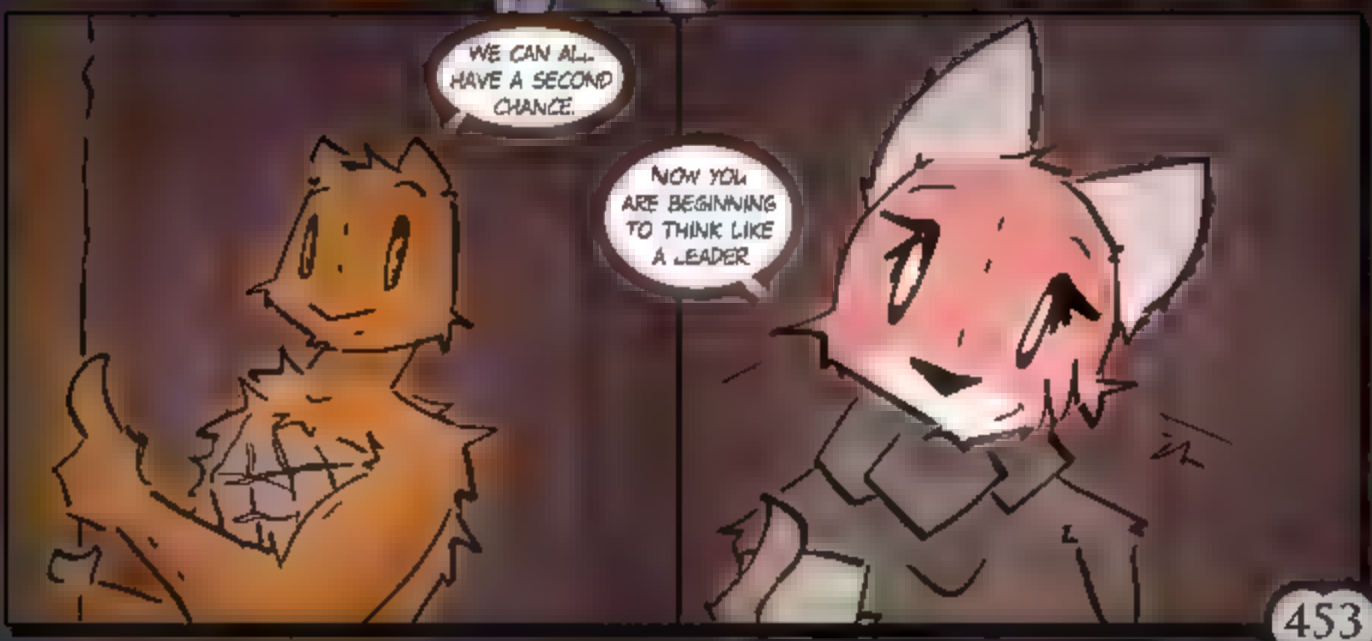
MAYBE I
SHOULD MAKE A
BREAK FOR IT.

YOU CAN'T
OUT RUN
PROGRESS

FATE FINDS
US ALL.

I DO NOT
BELIEVE IN FATE.
WE MAKE OUR
OWN ROADS. SOME
TIMES THE CHOICES
WE MAKE CONSPIRE
AGAINST US FORCING
US DOWN WHAT
SEEMS TO BE A
PREDETERMINED
PATH.

IT IS AN
ILLUSION, WHAT
MAKES US GREAT
OR WHAT DESTROYS
US IS OUR OWN FREE
WILL OF BEING ABLE
TO CHOOSE.



WE CAN ALL
HAVE A SECOND
CHANCE.

NOW YOU
ARE BEGINNING
TO THINK LIKE
A LEADER



WILL YOU BE
HERE WHEN I
RETURN?

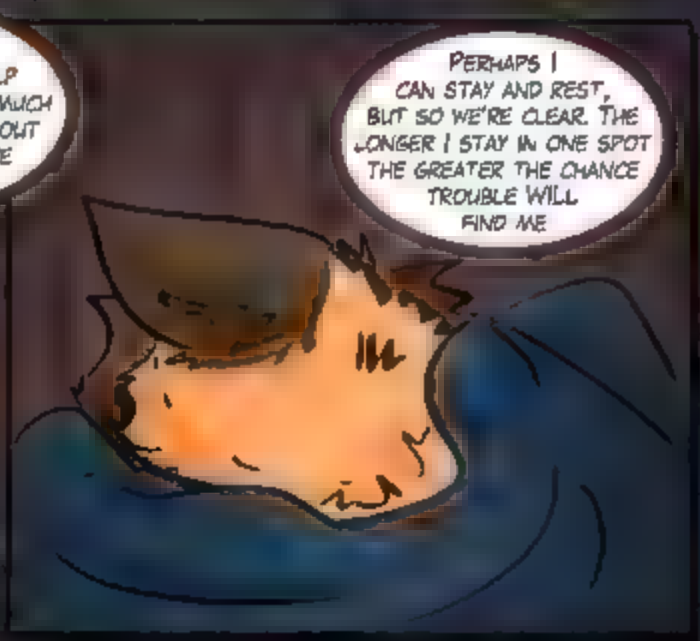
IF I BRING
BACK A FEW WEEKS
WORTH OF PROVISIONS
FOR YOU AND ALICE
WILL YOU STAY TILL
MORNING AND GET
SOME REST?

ONLY IF
SHE IS STILL
SLEEPING.

YOU HAVE
SOMETHING UP
YOUR SLEEVE?

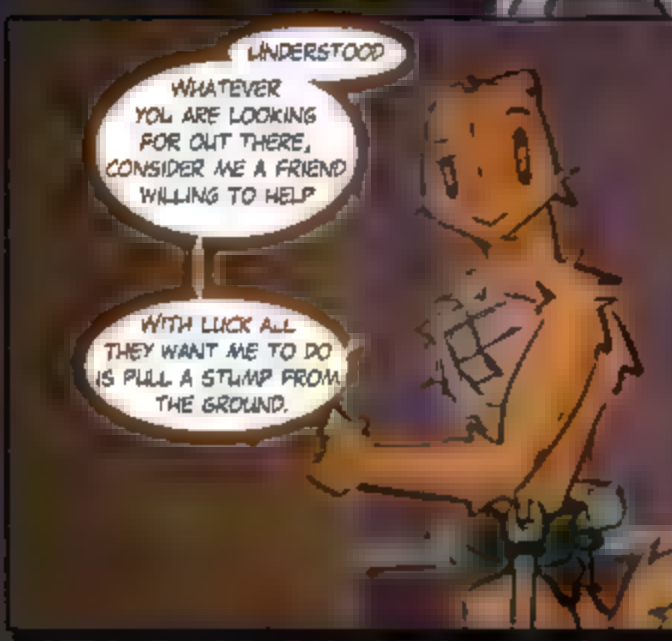


ONLY TWO
ARMS AND A PAIR
OF HANDS TRYING TO HELP
I KNOW YOU CAN SURVIVE MUCH
LONGER THEN I CAN WITHOUT
REST, BUT LITTLE ALICE
IS NOT ONE OF US



PERHAPS I
CAN STAY AND REST,
BUT SO WE'RE CLEAR. THE
LONGER I STAY IN ONE SPOT
THE GREATER THE CHANCE
TROUBLE WILL
FIND ME

UNDERSTOOD



WHATEVER
YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR OUT THERE,
CONSIDER ME A FRIEND
WILLING TO HELP

WITH LUCK ALL
THEY WANT ME TO DO
IS PULL A STUMP FROM
THE GROUND.



DON'T MAKE
PROMISES YOUR
RESPONSIBILITIES WILL
NOT LET YOU KEEP

CAREFUL,
SOME STUMPS
ARE ROOTED VERY
DEEP AND NEED A
WHOLE PARTY WORKING
TOGETHER TO
PULL LOOSE.



I CAN NOT
CATCH A BREAK,
HAD THE GIRL TO MY
SELF BUT I WAS TOO
WEAK TO DO
ANYTHING.

NOW THAT I
HAVE ENOUGH
STRENGTH TO TALK
THE WHORE
RETURNS.



HEH, FINALLY
ABLE TO SMELL
YOUR OWN STINK.

NO, YOU
CAN NOT POSSIBLY
KNOW THAT I
AM BACK.



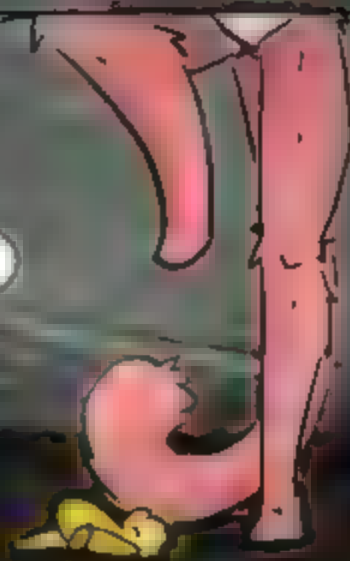
BITCH, I'LL
BE IN THE CHILD'S
GRACE BEFORE YOU
EVEN REALIZE-

COME OUT,
COME OUT,
WHERE EVER
YOU ARE.



SILLY BUNNY,
YOU CAN NOT HIDE HERE.
COME HERE!

DON'T PLAY
GAMES.



MY UNDYING
PLEASURE HUNGERS
FOR YOUR FESTERING
LOINS.

CRAZY BITCH!

I KNOW THAT
MY SINGED CHILD
IS NOT ENTIRELY YOUR
FAULT YOU ARE SAVED BY
THE FACT THAT MY -
BROTHER IS MORE
UNHINGED THAN YOU.

YOU HAVE
A SIBLING,
CONGRATULATIONS,
I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE
COULD STAND YOUR
MOTHER TWICE.

I AM TIRED,
WEARY BEYOND WORDS.
YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH
ALICE CAN NO LONGER
BE TOLERATED

RRGGGA-HAHAHAHAHA-HA-HA-HA-HA

YOU CAN'T KILL ME, YOUR ILLEGITIMATE CHILD WOULD HATE YOU.

OUTRAGED ALICE BOY K

O NOT
E I WOULD
TO KILL YOU
LONG AS LITTLE
OME EMOTIONAL
OU. BUT I CAN
SILENT FOR
AT A TIME

Y
YOUR C
ENCOMP
COULD
NOT
Y

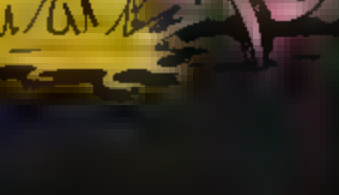
TO B
I WAS A
THAT SAY
TO KNOW TH
EVEN KNOW
THE FACT

TO BE HONEST,
I WAS NEVER REALLY
THAT SMART. YOU WANT
TO KNOW THE TRUTH? I DON'T
EVEN KNOW WHO I AM. BUT
THE FACT REMAINS, YOUR
INFLUENCE NEEDS
TO GO.

OOOOOOO,
SO CLEVER, WERE
YOU COMPOSING THAT
ALL THIS TIME?

ALICE DOES
NOT NEED
ANYMORE. SO
WILL BE A FIGHT
HER IMAGINATION

OWA-URF! AWA-HAHAHA

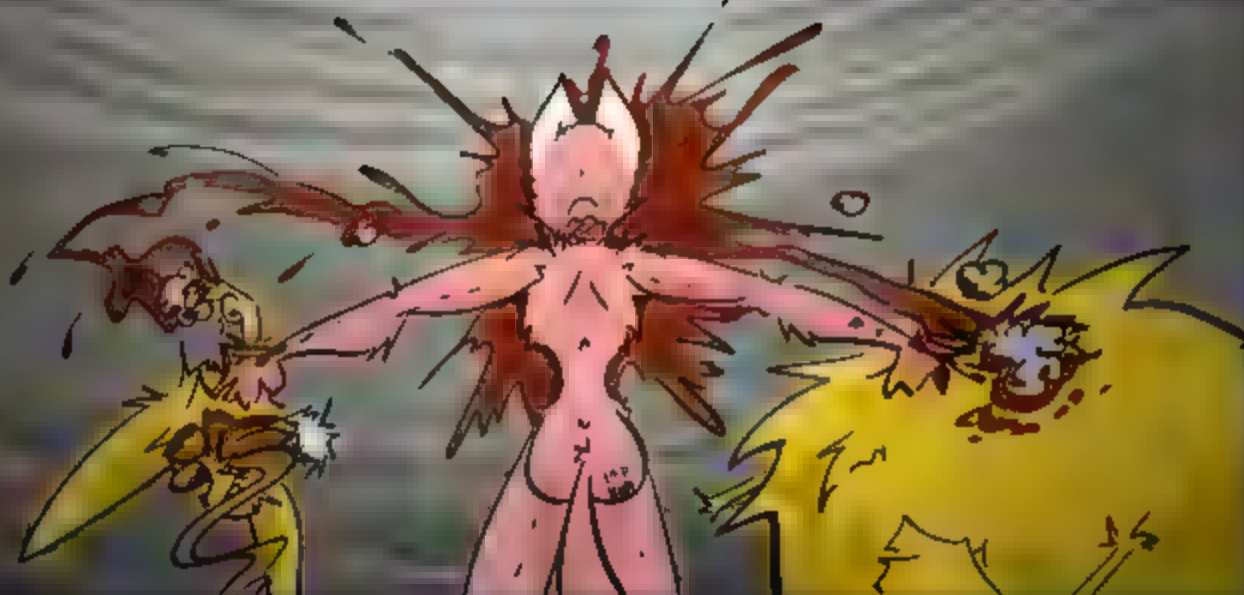


ES ONE DAY
YOU SHE WILL FORGET
ON YOU ABOUT YOU
MENT OF
ATION.

HAHEHEHA



ON THAT DAY
YOU MIGHT WANT TO
PULL YOUR BROTHER'S DICKS
OUT OF YOUR ASS AND TELL
THEM TO BE READY. I WILL
COME FOR YOU, YOU HAVE
MY WORD ON MY LIFE



YOU CANNOT
PROTECT HER FOREVER
FALSE MOTHER. YOU'VE LET
HER SLIP ONCE, MY WORDS WILL
FIND HER AGAIN. THE NEXT
TIME YOU WILL NOT
BE SO LUCKY





CAUGHT YOU
DID THEY

WITH MY PANTS
DOWN. I AM SORRY TO
LEAVE ON SHORT NOTICE,
BUT I. I WANTED TO SAY. I
HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR OUT THERE.
JUST REMEMBER SOME
ANSWERS DON'T NEED
TO BE FOUND

YOU JUST
REMEMBER DECISIONS
THAT ARE 'RIGHT' ARE NOT
ALWAYS GOOD, AND GOOD
INTENTIONS ARE EVERY
MISTAKES EXCUSE.

YES, MA'AM.

GOOD JOURNEY
STAY SAFE LITTLE
ALICE.

WHEN YOU
ARE READY I WILL
BE OUTSIDE, THOSE
ARE YOUR SUPPLIES
YOU REQUESTED.

THANK YOU.



MAYBE WE
WILL MEET FRIAR
PEKIN AGAIN AND HE WILL
SHOW US TO THE
BATHHOUSE.

WE BOTH
NEED ANOTHER
BATH.

THAT WOULD
BE A MIRACLE
ACCORDING TO
HIS GOD.



BUT MIRACLES
DO HAPPEN KATT

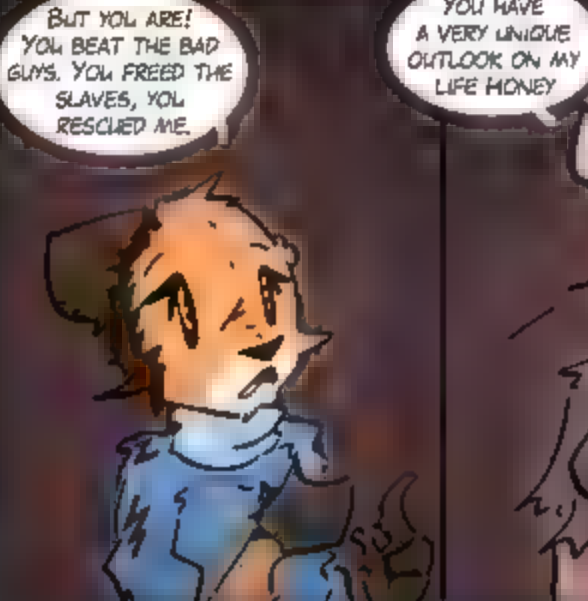
OH?

YOU
FOUND ME.

YOU ARE
A LITTLE MIRACLE
AREN'T YOU.

NO SILLY
YOU ARE THE
MIRACLE. YOU
SAVED ME

I'VE BEEN
CALLED A LOT
OF THINGS IN MY
LIFE, BUT I DON'T THINK
I'VE EVER BEEN CALLED
A MIRACLE.



BUT YOU ARE!
YOU BEAT THE BAD
GUYS. YOU FREED THE
SLAVES, YOU
RESCUED ME.

YOU HAVE
A VERY UNIQUE
OUTLOOK ON MY
LIFE MONEY



PEOPLE JUST
SAY MEAN THINGS
ABOUT YOU CAUSE THEY
DON'T KNOW YOU. IF THEY
KNEW YOU THEY'D
LIKE YOU MORE

ARE YOU
MY PR AGENT
NOW?

WHAT'S A
PR AGENT?

NOTHING
IMPORTANT MONEY
WE SHOULD GET
READY TO GO.

OK.



I'M OK,
I CAN WALK.

IT'S OK
ALICE HONEY
YOU GET SOME
REST I CAN CARRY
YOU FOR A
WHILE.

I LOVE YOU
MOMMY

I LOVE YOU
TOO ALICE
HONEY

I AM VERY
SORRY FOR YOUR
LOSS. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR HELP LOOKING
AFTER ALICE.

NO, NO,
SHE WAS A PERFECT
ANGEL.



YOU STAY
SAFE BABY

I WILL
BE NICE TO
KUGU, HE
LIKES YOU.



THANK
YOU BABY

THERE ARE GOING
TO BE A FEW TOUGH
YEARS TO COME THE WORLD
WILL SEEM TO FALL APART AGAIN,
BUT CIVILIZATION WILL COME LIKE A
THUNDERCLAP BE AS READY
AS YOU CAN, YOU THINK
JUDGMENT DAY WAS
SOMETHING?

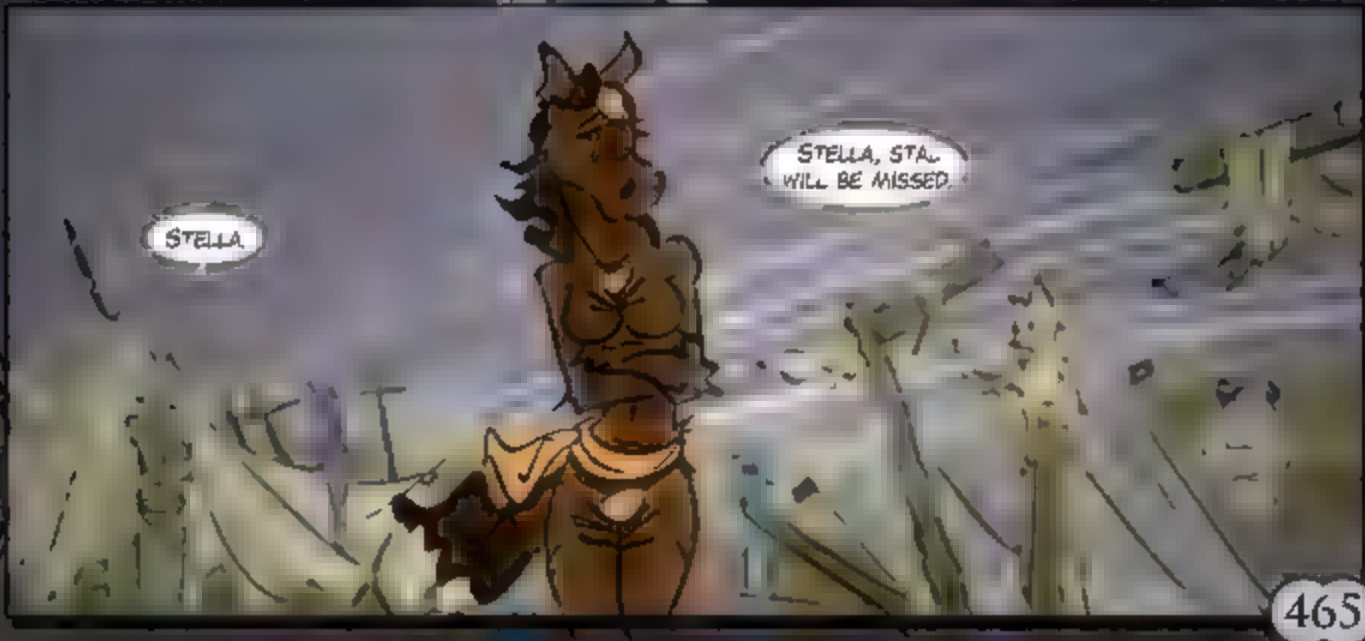
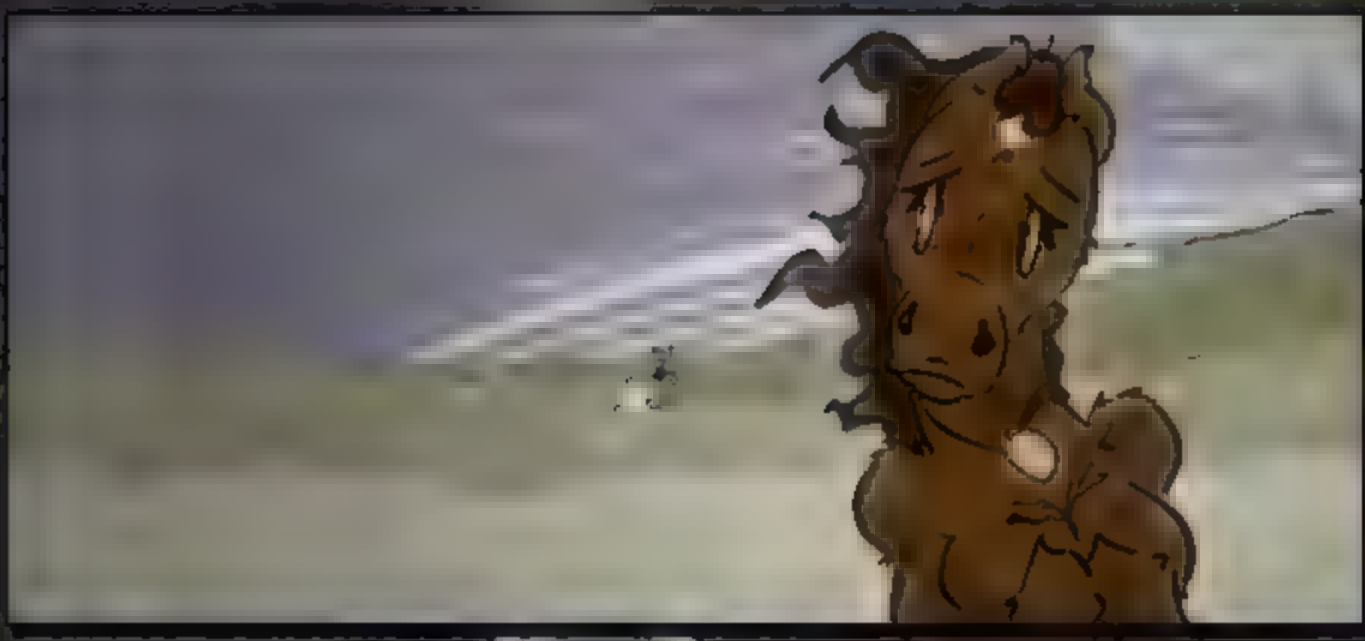
THAT WILL BE
NOTHING COMPARED
TO EVERYONE TRYING TO
TAKE CONTROL OF THE WORLD
AT ONCE. EVERYONE KNOWS
WHAT'S AT STAKE, AND
WHAT IS TO GAIN.





OUT OF
THE WAY

WHERE WILL
YOU BE WHEN
CIVILIZATION COMES
BACK TO THE
WORLD?

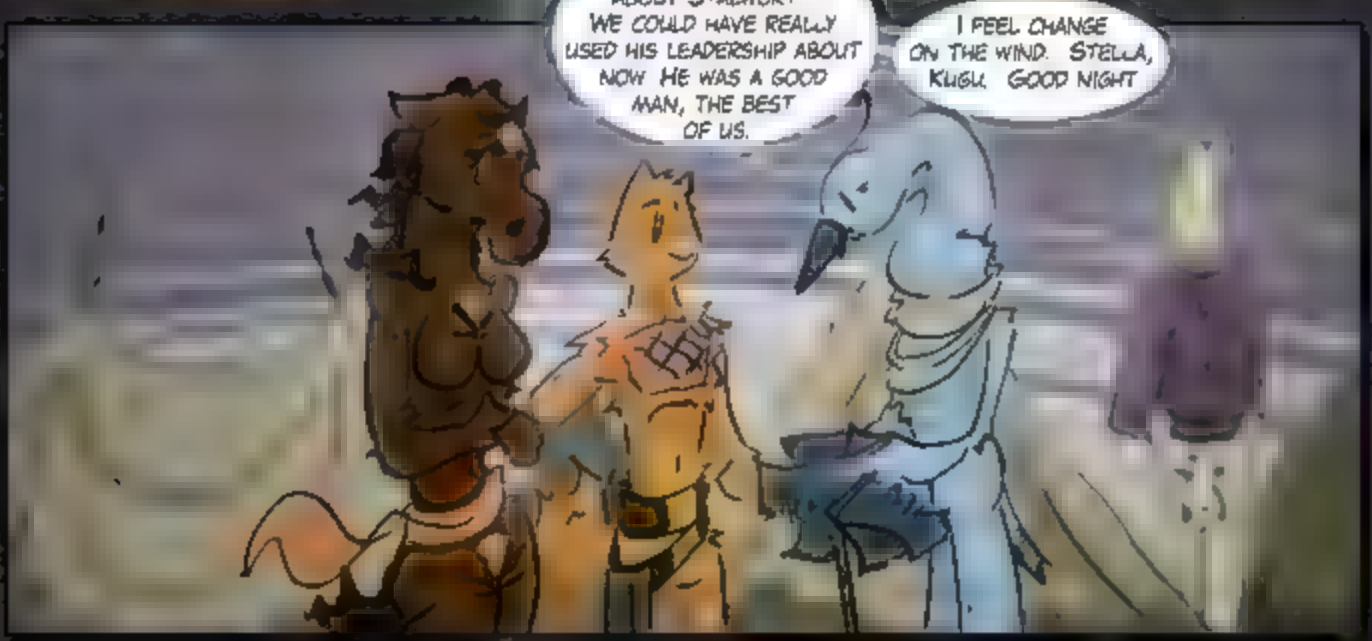


STELLA

STELLA, STA-
WILL BE MISSED

A hand-drawn comic panel showing three characters standing in a field. On the left is a small orange fox-like creature with a cross-hatched tunic. In the center is a blue bird-like creature with a white scarf. On the right is a taller, yellowish creature with a purple tunic. The background is a simple sketch of a field with some trees.

STELLAT

A hand-drawn comic panel showing a brown, horse-like creature with a mane talking to the orange fox. The blue bird-like creature is standing next to the fox. The yellowish creature is visible in the background, walking away. The background is a simple sketch of a field.

I AM VERY
SORRY TO HEAR
ABOUT STALWORT
WE COULD HAVE REALLY
USED HIS LEADERSHIP ABOUT
NOW HE WAS A GOOD
MAN, THE BEST
OF US.

I FEEL CHANGE
ON THE WIND. STELLA,
KUGU. GOOD NIGHT

A hand-drawn comic panel showing the brown creature and the orange fox in a close-up. The brown creature is on the left, and the fox is on the right. The background is a simple sketch of a field.

THEY ARE AWAY

GOOD,
DID YOU SAY BYE
TO LITTLE ALICE?

"No"

STAL-

IT'S NOT
JUST STAL.

ALICE?
KATT?

IS SOMETHING
BOTHERING YOU
ABOUT HER?

SHE'S REAL
KU, SHE'S
REAL.

ARE YOU
ALRIGHT? I WAS
SHAKEN BY HER, BUT
YOU, YOU ARE
TERRIFIED

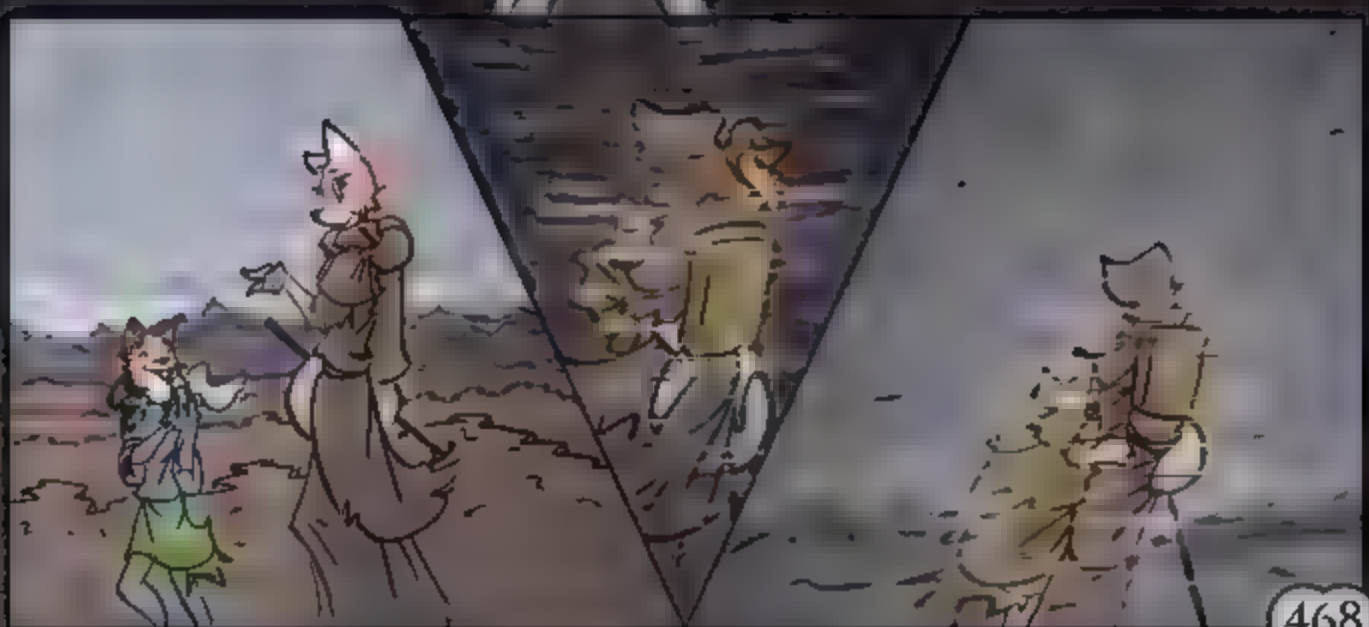
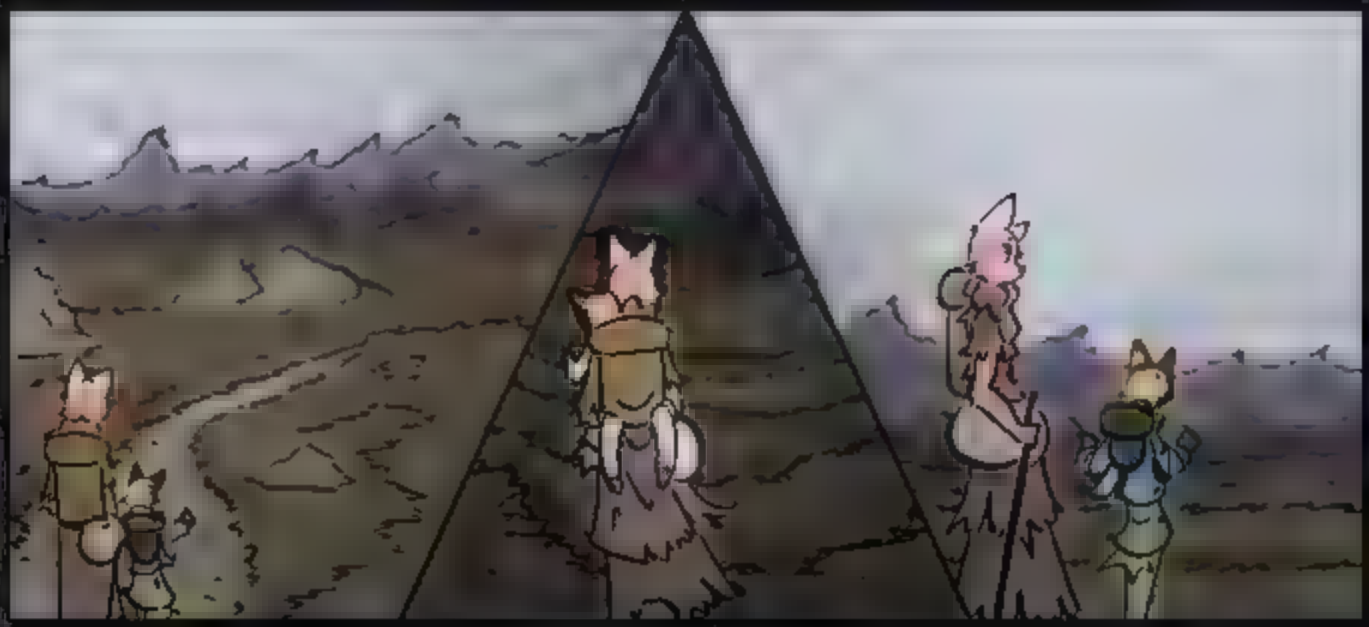
I'M NOT
MENTALLY TERRIFIED,
IT IS SOMETHING
BEYOND THAT

I HONESTLY THOUGHT
SHE WOULD HAVE KILLED
THAT FIRE, THE LOOK IN
HER EYES WAS...

SHE WOULD HAVE
HUNTED THAT FIRE ALL
THE WAY BACK TO HELL OR
THE BIG BANG TO GET HER
VENGEANCE. SHE FRIGHTENS
MY SOUL KUGU, SHE
FRIGHTENS MY SOUL.

SHHHHH
IT'S OK STELLA.
YOU'LL BE OK,
YOU'LL BE OK

I WANT
STAL BACK.



DO YOU
THINK THEY ARE
BAD MEN?

NO THEY
DO NOT SMELL
LIKE BAD MEN.

“SNIFF”
“SNIFF”

I CAN ONLY
SMELL A SOUR
CLOUD.

WHOEVER
THEY ARE, THEY
ARE NOT HEALTHY
MANY STRUGGLING WITH
DEATH ITSELF. THEY ARE
LEAVING A FAIRLY LARGE
ADVERTISEMENT TO THE
WORLD WHICH WAY
THEY WENT

ARE
THEY LOST?

NO, THEY HAVE
A VERY DEFINED PATH.
I DON'T KNOW OF ANYTHING
THIS FAR TO THE NORTH EAST
CLOSE ENOUGH FOR A
LARGE GROUP TO GO

WE NEED TO
KEEP HEADING WEST,
BUT WE ARE GAINING ON
THEM FAIRLY QUICK.

ARE WE GOING
TO HELP THEM?

WE ARE JUST
GOING TO SEE WHO
THEY ARE I AM CURIOUS
AS TO WHO LEFT THIS PATH
WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING
TO DISGUISE IT

AND WE COULD
ASK THEM WHERE THEY
ARE GOING

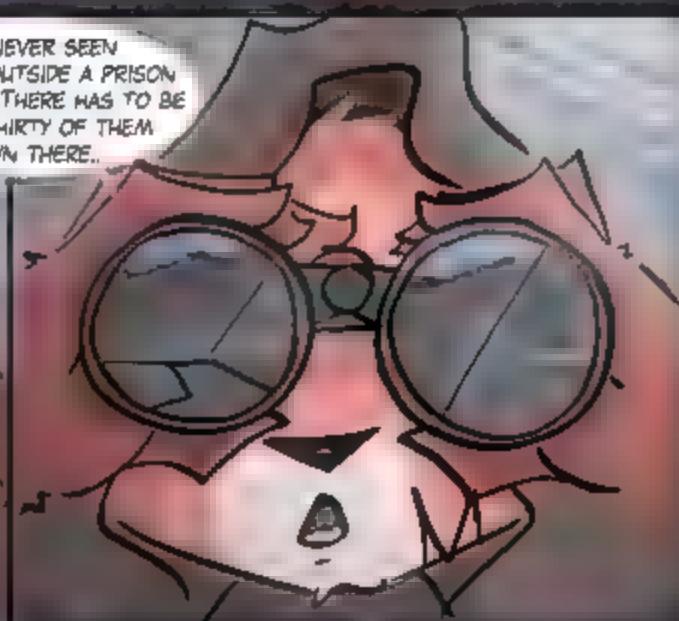


WHO
ARE THEY?

THEY
LOOK LIKE
HYBRIDS.

I'VE NEVER SEEN
SO MANY OUTSIDE A PRISON
OR A MINE. THERE WAS TO BE
ABOUT THIRTY OF THEM
DOWN THERE..

WHAT'S
A HYBRID?

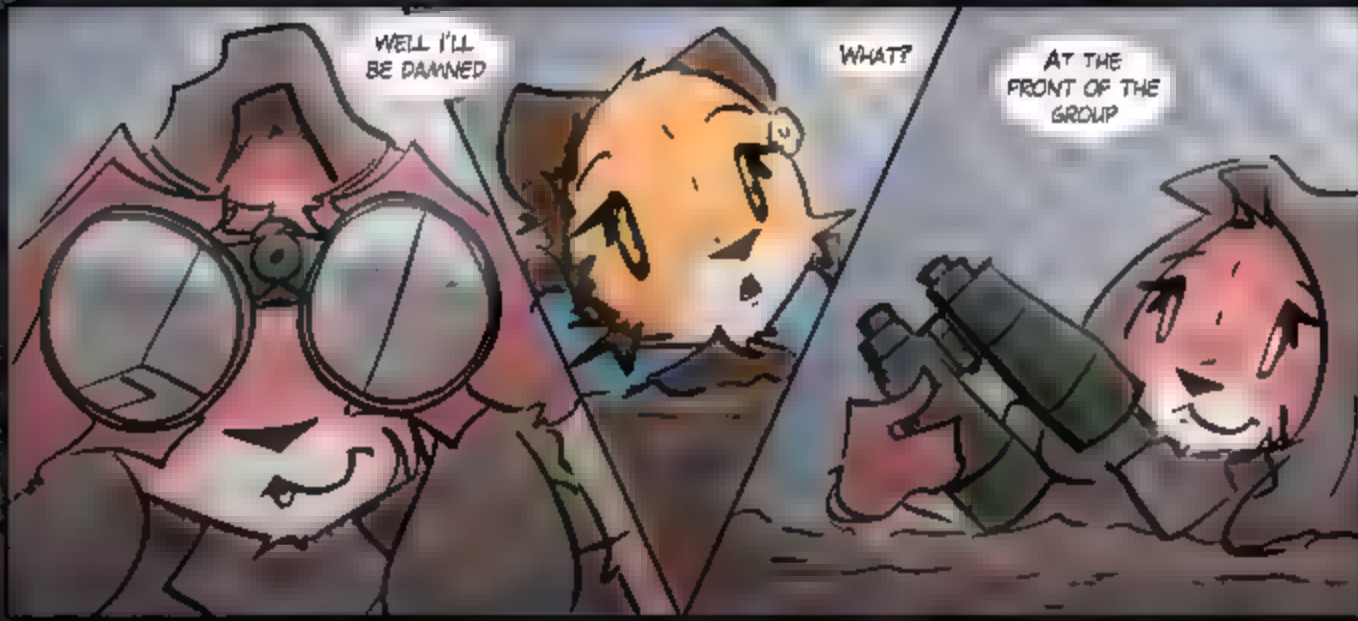


ARE
HYBRIDS BAD?

NO HONEY
JUST -
MISUNDERSTOOD

Oh..





WELL I'LL
BE DAMNED

WHAT?

AT THE
FRONT OF THE
GROUP



THEY ALL
LOOK SICK
AND



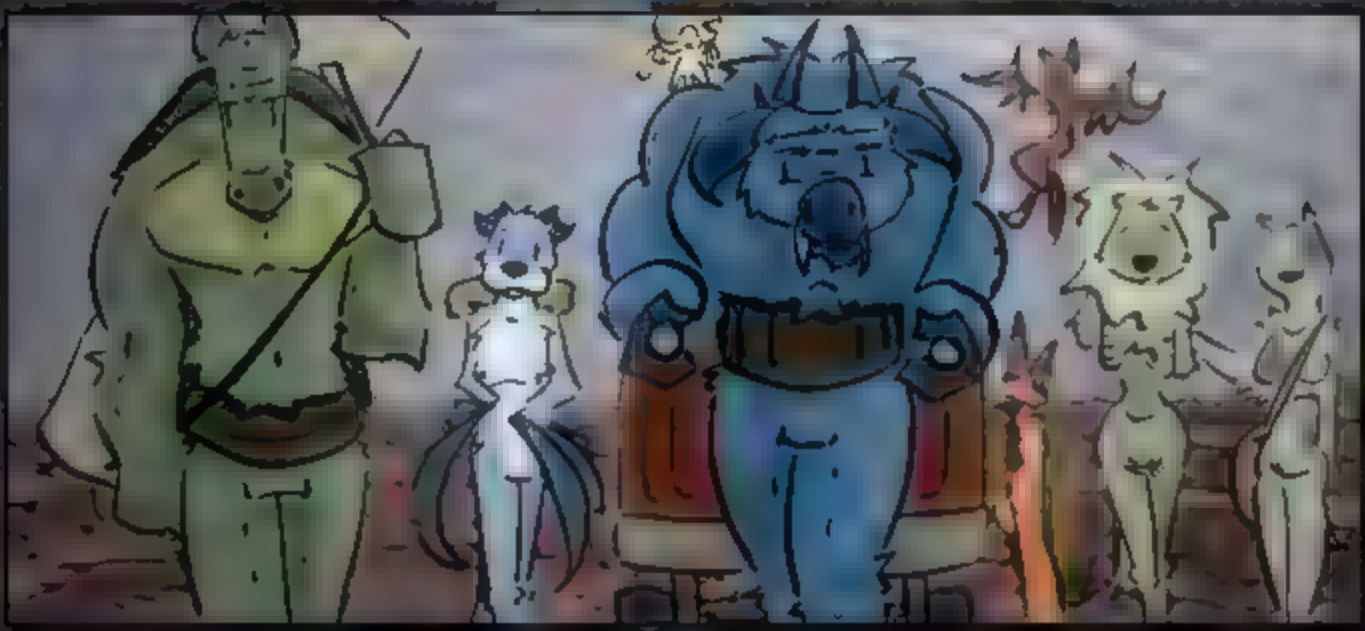
PRIAR PEKIN!

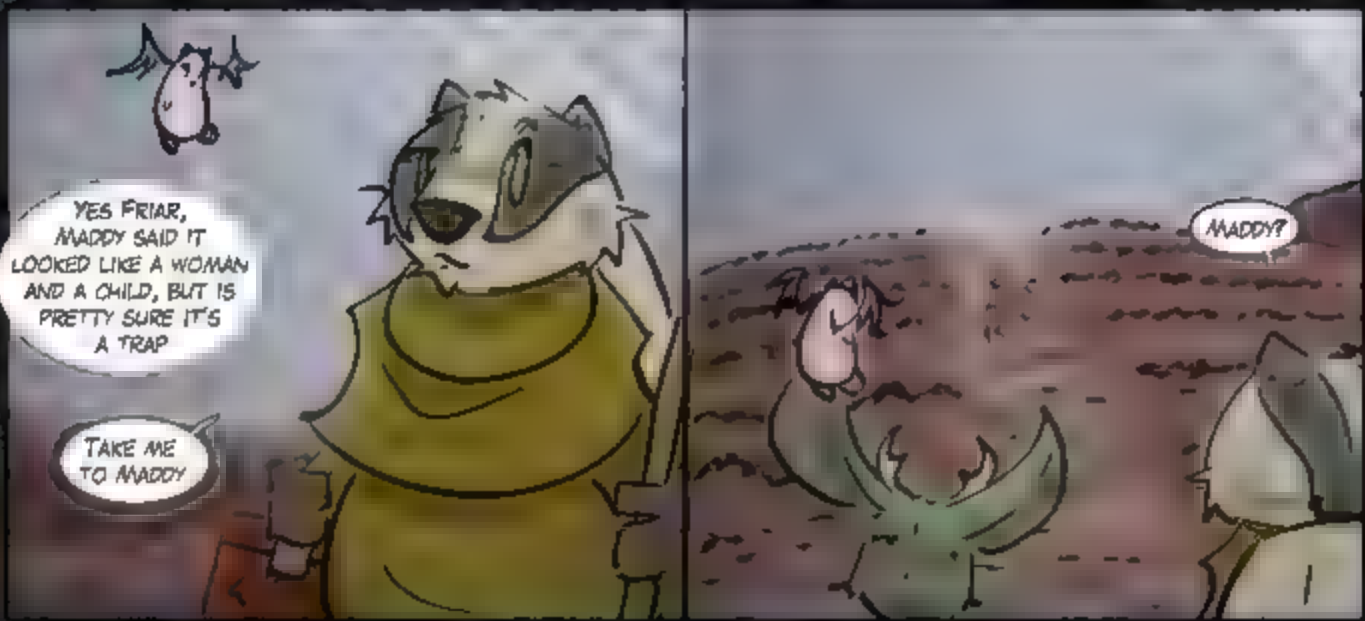
CAN WE GO
SAY HI KATT? PLEASE,
PLEASE, PLEASE?

OK, OK,
WE CAN GO
SAY HI.

WE HAVE TO BE
CAREFUL AND RESPECTFUL
OF THE PLUSH WITH HIM.

OK KATT







FRIAR PEKIN!

LITTLE ALICE!
WHERE IN THE
WASTES DID YOU
COME FROM?

YOU WOULDN'T
BELIEVE FRIAR PEKIN.
AFTER WE LEFT WE
WALKED FOR A
LONG TIME



THEN WE
STARTED TO RUN
OUT OF FOOD SO WE
FOLLOWED TRAIN
TRACKS TO
A TOWN.

HAVE YOU
EVER SEEN A
TRAIN FRIAR
PEKIN?

IT'S BIG
AND NOISY AND
CAN CARRY LOTS
OF THINGS.



BUT THE TOWN
ATTACKED US BECAUSE OF
KATT'S BROTHER.



BROTHER?



I WAS CAPTURED
AND PUT ON THE TRAIN
AND TURNED INTO A SLAVE.
I THOUGHT I WAS ALL
ALONE BUT THEN I
MET STALWORT



HELLO
FRIAR PEKIN.

HE WAS A
GIANT HORSE WITH
ONE ARM, AND HE
WAS LEADER OF
THE SLAVES



I HAD TO WORK
AS A SLAVE, BUT ONLY
PRETENDING TO BE A SLAVE
SO WE CALLED ME TINA FRIAR.
I HAD TO WAIT FOR KATT TO COME
SAVE ME, SHE WAS BUSY KILLING
ALL OF HER BROTHER'S BAD MEN.
I HAD TO WORK IN THE LAUNDRY
ROOM SCRUBBING CLOTHES
WITH A PERVERTED
OLD GOAT



BUT THEN I
MET THE SLAVE OWNER,
HE WAS A GIANNIT EAGLE.
HE WAS EVEN TALLER THAN
STALWORT, WITH GREAT
BIG WINGS AND A
HUGE BEAK



HE TOLD ME
HE USED TO BE A
CONVOY AND LIKE TO
EAT LITTLE GIRLS, BUT MADE
A VOW TO CHANGE. I WASN'T
AFRAID, I TOLD HIM, ONCE
A CONVOY ALWAYS
A CONVOY



HA-HEHEHE



THEN WE HAD
TO GO TO A BIG DINNER
WITH ALL OF HIS FRIENDS.
BUT THEN COLE
ARRIVED.

HE TRIED TO
CATCH ME AND STARTED
KILLING EVERYONE. THE HOUSE
STARTED ON FIRE AND
WE WERE TRAPPED

COLE?

KATT'S
BROTHER

COLE TRIED
TO CATCH ME AGAIN
BUT THIS TIME STALWORT
STOPPED HIM.

STALWORT
SACRIFICED HIMSELF
TO SAVE ME AND
STOP COLE.

THE SMOKE WAS
CHOKING AND BURNING
MY EYES, BUT THEN THERE
WAS A LOUD NOISE. I ESCAPED
THROUGH THE LAUNDRY
ROOM AND THEN SAW
KATT RIDING A TRAIN.

SHE MADE A
HUGE WATER BUCKET
FALL ON THE HOUSE.
THERE WAS WATER
EVERYWHERE!

I COULD HEAR
KATT CALLING BUT
I COULD NOT FIND HER.
IT WAS SO DARK ONCE THE
FIRE WENT OUT AND THERE
WAS SOOO MUCH SMOKE.
I KEPT WALKING AND
WALKING AND THEN
THERE SHE WAS.

SHE PROMISED
SHE WOULD COME FOR
ME, AND SHE DID.

AND THEN
WE RESTED AND
SAID BYE TO THE
FREED SLAVES

WE WALKED
FOR A LONG TIME
AND THEN CAME TO
SOME TRACKS.

WE FOLLOWED
FOR A BIT AND THEN
CAME TO THE TOP OF
THE HILL, AND THERE
YOU WERE.

WELL I GUESS
THAT SUMS UP MOST
OF THE QUESTIONS
ONE WOULD ASK.

WHAT AN
ADVENTURE YOU
HAVE HAD IN THE FEW
SHORT WEEKS SINCE
YOU LEFT

LOOKS LIKE YOU
HAVE HAD A BIT OF
YOUR OWN FRIAR.

ALAS, MY
STORY IS NOT NEARLY
AS HARROWING AS YOUNG
ALICE'S. NO GIANT EAGLES,
HORSES WITH ONE ARM, FIRES
OR EVIL BROTHERS. JUST A
FEW REGRETABLE CHOICES,
AND COLORFUL WORDS

FRIAR WHAT WOULD
YOUR GOD THINK ABOUT
YOUR USE OF
COLORFUL WORDS?

HE WOULD FORGIVE
MY EXPRESSIONS OF
FRUSTRATION.

BUT ENOUGH
OF EXPLOITS, ALLOW
ME TO INTRODUCE YOU
TO MY TRAVELING
COMPANIONS.

THIS FROWNING
FACE IS MADDY, HE IS
THE ONE WHO DILIGENTLY
SPOTTED YOU. HE IS A CHARMING
PESSIMIST, DO NOT LET HIS
SCOWLING DETER YOU.

THIS IS SUZIE,
SHE IS OUR LITTLE
MESSENGER, ALWAYS HAPPY
TO TAKE WORD TO
ANOTHER OUR MADDY'S
ANTITHESIS.

THIS IS MATILDA,
THE HEAD OF
THE GROUP

YOU ARE
TOO KIND FRIAR PEKIN.
I AM NOT THE HEAD OF
THE GROUP SO MUCH
AS I AM THE
SPOKESWOMAN.

YOU DO NOT
GIVE YOURSELF
ENOUGH CREDIT

EVERYONE THIS
IS KATT AND HER
DAUGHTER ALICE,
MY DEAR FRIENDS

THEY WILL BE
JOINING US FOR CAMP
TONIGHT WE SHOULD
CONTINUE TO WALK FOR
ANOTHER THREE HOURS
BEFORE WE FIND A
PLACE TO REST
FOR THE NIGHT



IT IS SETTLED
THEN, LET US CONTINUE
KATT, ALICE, WILL
YOU JOIN ME?

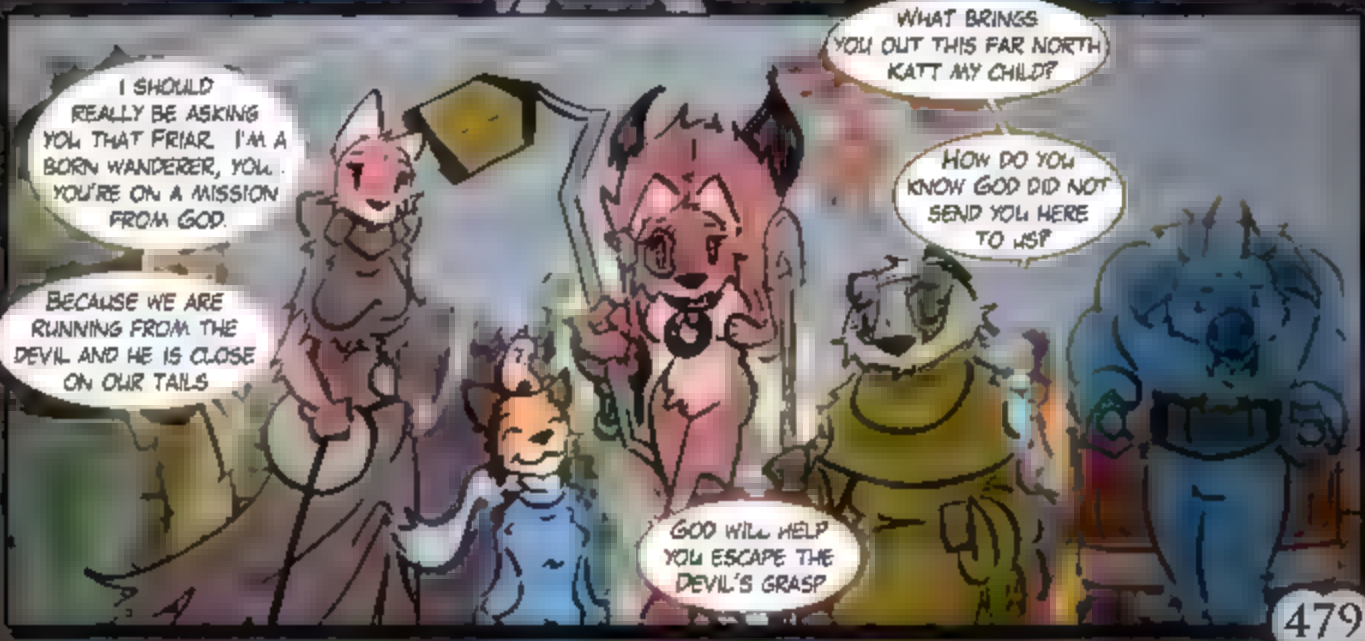
WE WOULD
WELCOME ANY
FRIEND OF THE GOOD
PRIAR PEKIN. A FRIEND
OF OUR SAVIOR IS
NOT TO BE
QUESTIONED.



Yes!

CAN WE?

FOR TONIGHT



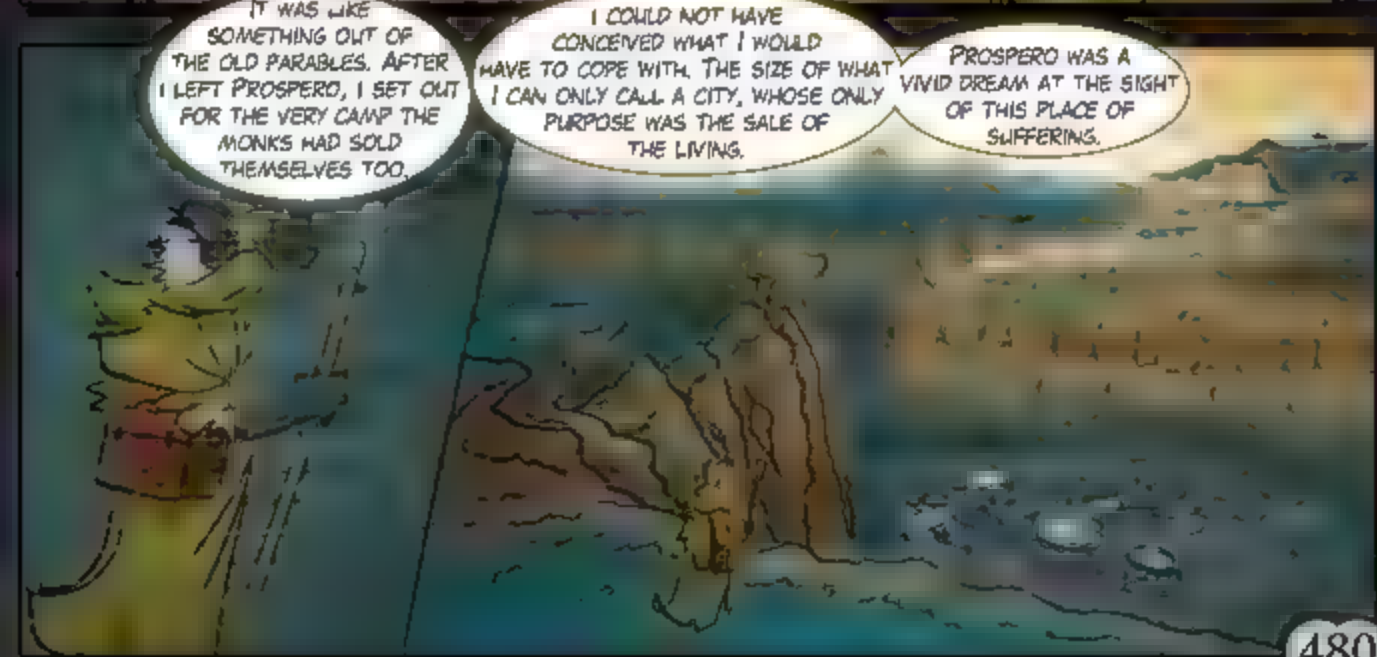
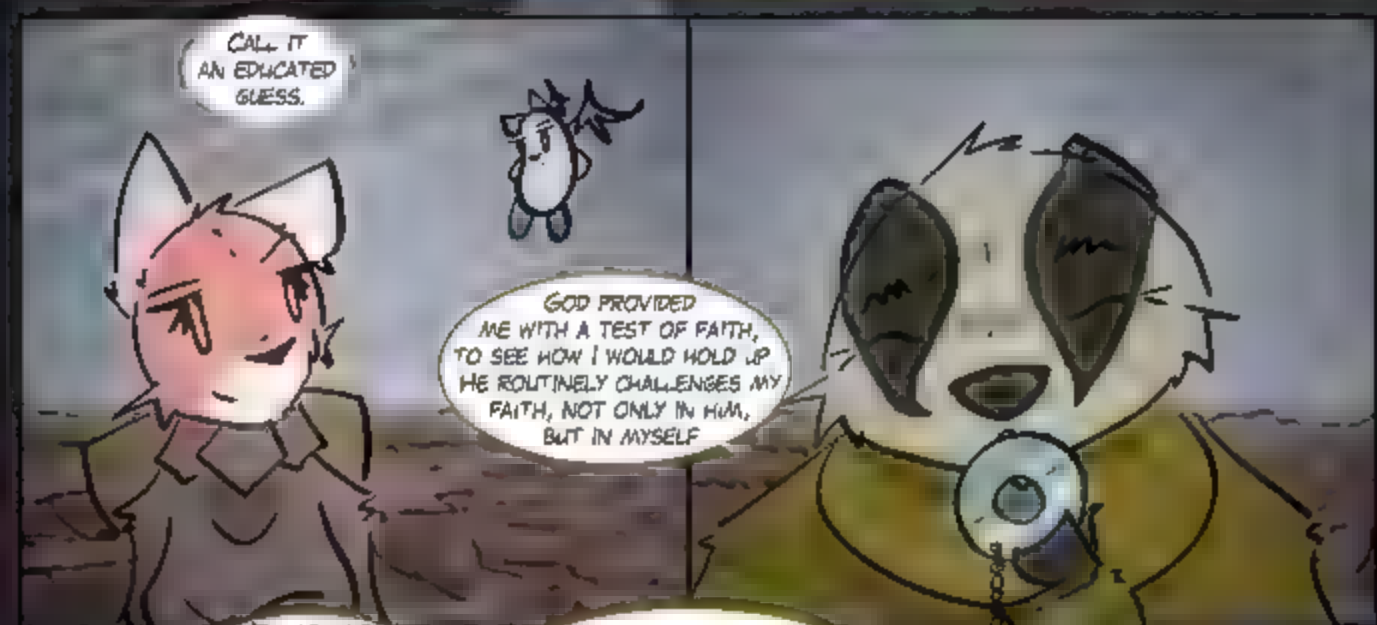
I SHOULD
REALLY BE ASKING
YOU THAT PRIAR. I'M A
BORN WANDERER, YOU
YOU'RE ON A MISSION
FROM GOD.

BECAUSE WE ARE
RUNNING FROM THE
DEVIL AND HE IS CLOSE
ON OUR TAILS

WHAT BRINGS
YOU OUT THIS FAR NORTH
KATT MY CHILD?

HOW DO YOU
KNOW GOD DID NOT
SEND YOU HERE
TO US?

GOD WILL HELP
YOU ESCAPE THE
DEVIL'S GRASP



MY FAITH IN OUR SURVIVAL AS A SPECIES WAS SHAKEN TO ITS CORE.

I WANDERED FOR HOURS FROM AUCTION TO AUCTION LOOKING FOR OUR MONKS.

THE SUN SET AND THE AUCTIONEERS BEGAN TO CHANGE THEIR TONE

THE STOCK THAT HAD SEEN THE DAYLIGHT WERE HEALTHY BEINGS SOLD TO WORK FIELDS, MINES, OR SERVE THEIR NEW MASTERS.

THE STOCK THAT SAW THE NIGHTFALL WERE SUBJECTED TO SOMETHING MORE SINISTER

SCRAWNY, CRINGING PLUSH WERE LINED UP IN DROVES, TOUTED AS TOOLS TO KEEP THE MEN HAPPY AND THE BED WARM.

CHILDREN, DIRTY AND CRYING WERE SOLD IN LOTS OF TEN FOR USE AS WHAT EVER THEIR NEW MASTERS SAW FIT

THE ELDERLY, FEEBLE, SOFT MINDED, SICK, AND THOSE WHO COULD NO LONGER WORK

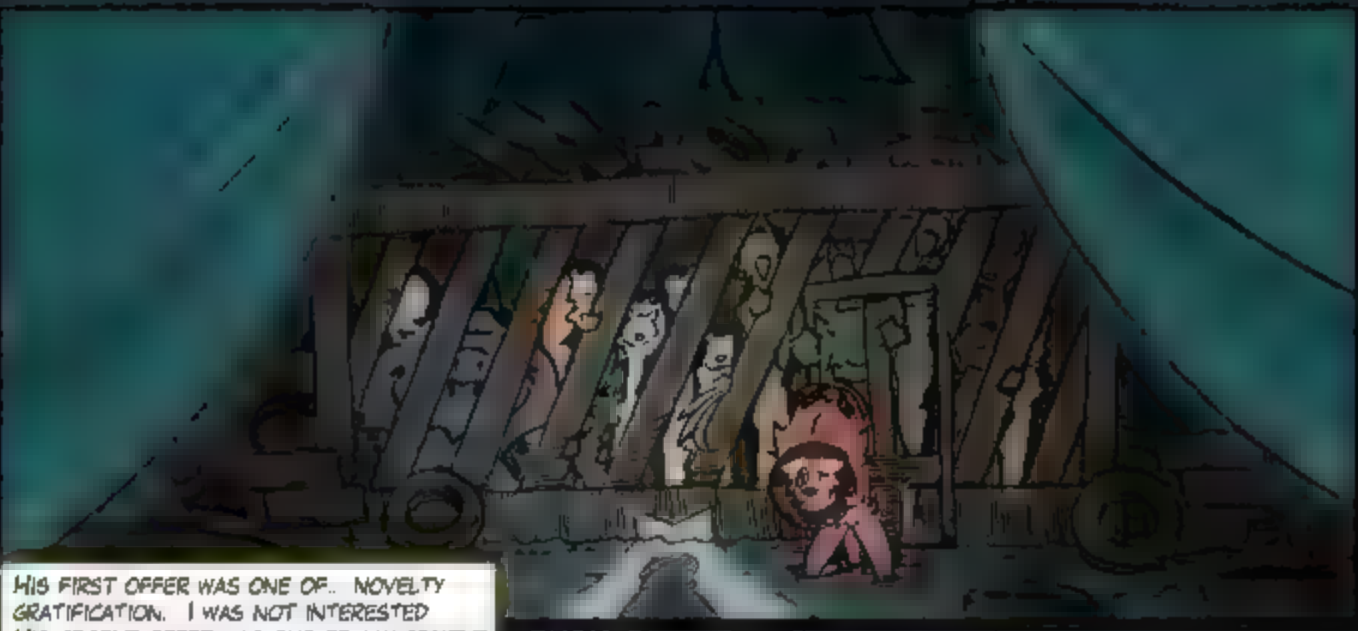
THEY WERE SOLD FOR SLAUGHTER. I FELT I HAD WALKED INTO HELL ITSELF

NEVER GO SOUTH
TO LIRO CAN BELGIN.
HELL PALES IN
COMPARISON.

DEEPER YET I WENT,
MY EYES FELL ON DEPRAVITY
THAT I WILL BE HAUNTED WITH FOR
THE REST OF MY LIFE. CRIERS SHOUTED
OUT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, AND
I FOUND MYSELF STANDING AS DEEP
AS ONE CAN IN THE
THICK OF IT

A MAN CAME OUT OF THE SHADOWS
AT MY ELBOW AND BECKONED TO ME.
A MOTTLED GREY HORSE WITH
BEDRAGGLED FUR "BUYER?" IS ALL HE
ASKED. PERHAPS I NODDED, PERHAPS
I DID NOT. HE JUST HELD ASIDE THE
CURTAIN TO DARKNESS.

I FELT MYSELF DRAWN
IN AS IF I WERE A SLAVE
TO THE GESTURE.



HIS FIRST OFFER WAS ONE OF NOVELTY GRATIFICATION. I WAS NOT INTERESTED HIS SECOND OFFER WAS ONE OF AMUSEMENT AS I SAW FIT I WAS NOT IN THE MOOD FOR ENTERTAINMENT HIS THIRD WAS ONE OF TORMENT I ONLY FELT PITY

I INQUIRED THE PRICE FOR ALL HIS STOCK



I HAD NOTHING TO OFFER AND I SUSPECT HE KNEW THIS. A SMILE CROSSED HIS FACE, IT WAS NOT ONE OF HAPPINESS, OR MALICIOUS INTENT

IT WAS A SMILE THAT CHILLED MY VERY SOUL

HE LOOKED ME IN THE EYE AND SAID, 'I HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU. IF YOU TAKE THE DEAL THE PATHETIC HYBRIDS ARE YOURS, IF NOT LEAVE



IT'S OK FRIAR PEKIN.
WE DO NOT BLAME YOU
FOR WHAT CHOICE YOU MADE.
WE ARE FREE

I ASKED HIM
OF THE DEAL, HE
REPLIED, THAT THE
DEAL DID NOT WORK
THAT WAY.

I ACCEPTED...

NOT TO BELITTLE
YOUR STORY FRIAR PEKIN,
NO MATTER THE SEVERITY OF
THE DEAL OR WHAT IT ENTAILS,
IT WILL PALE IN COMPARISON
TO ALICE'S HISTORY
I CAN ASSURE
YOU THAT

PERHAPS
I SHOULDN'T

HE HELD OUT HIS HAND,
AND I TOOK THOSE SKELETAL
FINGERS IN MINE SEALING THE
DEAL. PULLING ME IN CLOSE
I COULD SMELL HIS ROTTEN
BREATH AND SEE THE MAD
GLINT IN HIS EYES.

HIS MANNER OF SPEAKING WAS CASUAL.
'YOU WILL PICK ONE MALE FROM THE
REMAINING ABOMINATIONS AND INSTRUCT
HIM TO VIOLATE HER

HE POINTED
TO MATILDA.

THE OTHERS HAD BEEN LISTENING AND WITHOUT A WORD THE MEN HAD STEPPED FORWARD. THEY WERE NOT EAGER FOR THE MISDEED, THERE WAS HOPE OF FREEDOM IN THEIR FACES.

I-I COULD NOT BRING MYSELF TO PICK. I STOOD THERE FOR A FULL TEN MINUTES WITH THAT DAMNABLE HORSE'S EYES ON MY BACK. EVERY BELIEF THAT I FOLLOWED, EVERY MORAL ALARM, EVERY OUNCE OF FAITH I HAD, WERE VIOLATED THE MOMENT I TOOK HIS HAND.

I HAD SINNED AND I WAS ASHAMED TO THE POINT OF INACTIVITY

ONE OF THE MEN SPOKE BUT WAS SILENCED BY THE SLAVE MASTER.

I HAD MADE A DEAL WITH AN ACTUAL DEVIL TO SAVE SOULS, ONLY TO VIOLATE TWO OF THEM IN THE MOST HEINOUS OF WAYS.

I CHOSE ON IMPULSE, IGNORING THE MAN WHO HAD SPOKE. THE SLAVE MASTER LET HIM OUT CHUCKLING ALL THE WHILE

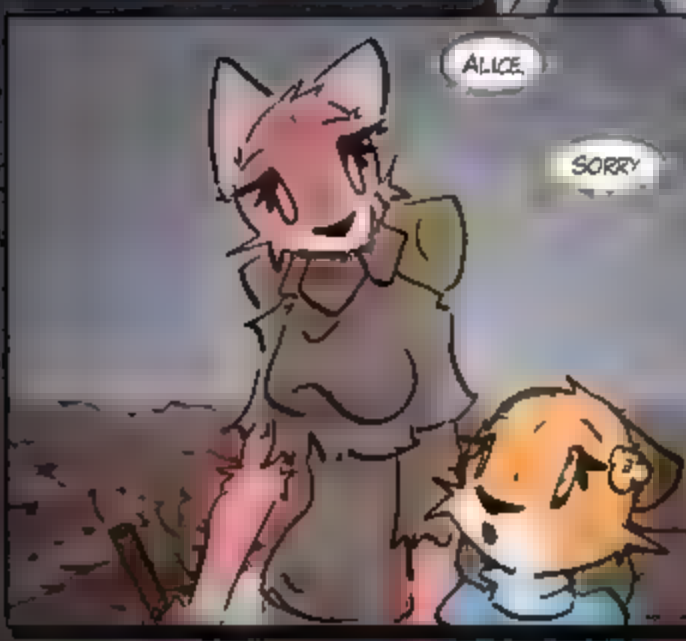


GOD LEAD HIM TO
US, TESTED HIM IN THE
DARKNESS AND PAIN, AND
DELIVERED US TO
SALVATION.

POOR JOSHUA APOLOGIZES TO ME EVERY
NIGHT. I THINK THE ACT AFFECTED HIM MORE
THEN IT DID ME. HE FEELS GREAT SHAME FOR
WHAT HE DID TO FREE US. I HAVE FORGIVEN
HIM AND THE OTHERS TRY TO COMFORT HIM,
BUT HE IS WITHDRAWN.



WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST KILL THE
BAD MAN?



ALICE

SORRY



I WISH I WOULD
HAVE LITTLE HONEY BEE.
I TRULY WISH I HAD KATT'S
COURAGE IN BATTLE. MY COWARDICE
IS WHAT FUELED THE DEAL THAT
I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT

COWARDICE?
YOU DID NOT KILL
THAT MAN BECAUSE YOU
KNEW OF A BETTER WAY OF GETTING
THE SLAVES OUT WITHOUT QUESTION.
A BIT OF EMOTIONAL TRAUMA
AND PAIN ARE NOT GOING TO
KILL YOU. A THOUSAND PISSED
OFF SLAVERS, WILL.

ALL IS FORGIVEN,
WE ARE ON A NEW PATH
NOW. WE ARE INDEBTED TO
THE FRIAR'S SACRIFICE. IT WAS AN
IMPOSSIBLE DECISION BUT HE
MADE IT AND WE
ARE FREE.

HE IS TAKING
US TO THE ORDER OF
CYD, THE GRAND MONASTERY
IN THE NORTH.

THAT IS MONTHS
TRAVEL ON FOOT, WITH
NOTHING BUT CONVOY, SLAVERS,
AND BANDITS IN
BETWEEN.

THAT IS NOT
EXACTLY WHAT
CONCERNS ME.

WE PICKED UP
YOUR TRAIL BECAUSE
IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE
TO MISS.

THIS LAND IS
OUT OF GOD'S
JURISDICTION.

WE HAVE FOOD
FOR A MONTH, AND IF
RATIONED IT CAN BE
STRETCHED A LITTLE
LONGER.

WE WILL MAKE
IT, GOD WILL SEE
US THROUGH.

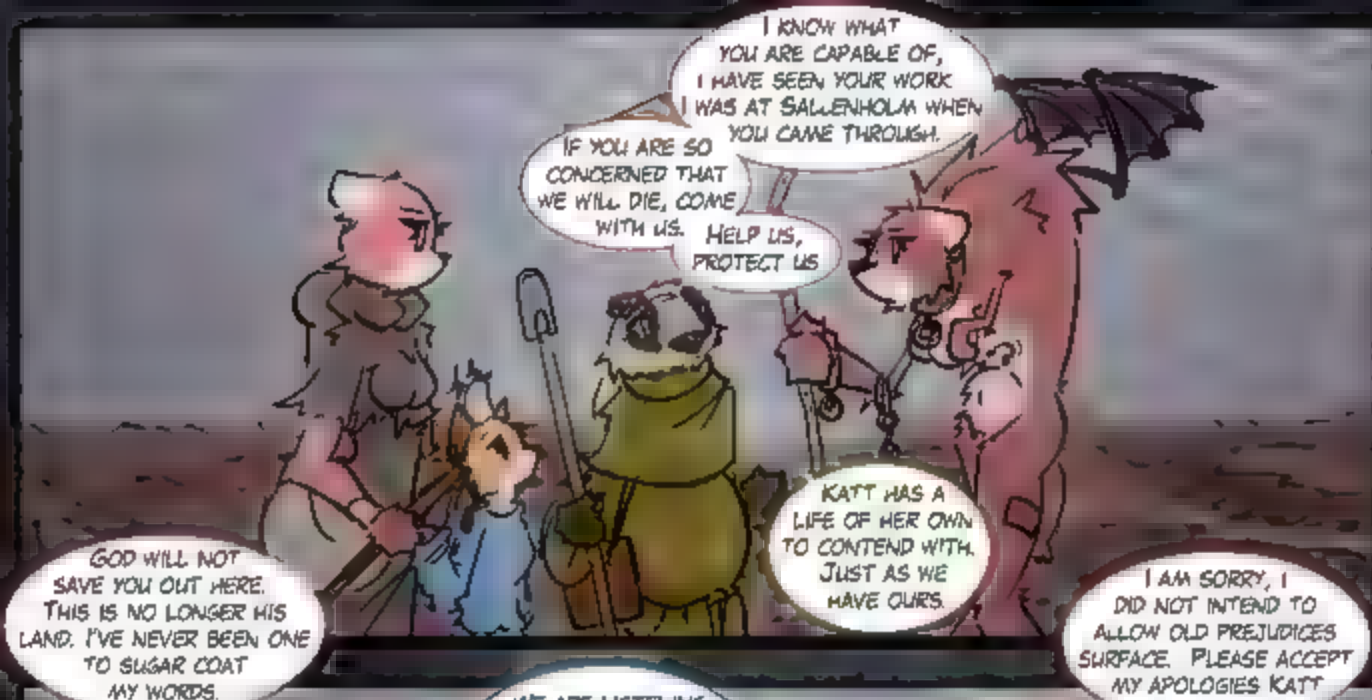
WE CAN DEFEND
OURSELVES.

YOU DAFT KITTEN,
LOOK ME IN THE EYE
AND SAY THAT AGAIN.

YOU DO NOT
KNOW US, JUST
BECAUSE WE ARE
~~RECKLESS~~ YOU
INSTANTLY-

SAVE ME THE SOB
STORY, YOU THINK I AM
JUDGING YOU BASED ON THE
FACT YOU'RE HYBRIDS? THERE
COULD BE THIRTY ARMED MEN OUT
HERE AND I WOULD TELL THEM
THE SAME DAMNED THING.

LEAVING THAT KIND
OF TRAIL WILL BRING THE
ENTIRE CONVOY POPULATION
DOWN UPON YOU. I HAVE MORE
EXPERIENCE WITH CONVOY, NOMADS,
PLAGUE CRAZIES, SLAVERS, THE
LOST, BANDITS, AND PLAIN OLD
MURDERS THEN THE LOT
OF YOU COMBINED



I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF, I HAVE SEEN YOUR WORK WAS AT SALLENHOLM WHEN YOU CAME THROUGH.

IF YOU ARE SO CONCERNED THAT WE WILL DIE, COME WITH US. HELP US, PROTECT US

KATT HAS A LIFE OF HER OWN TO CONTEND WITH. JUST AS WE HAVE OURS.

I AM SORRY, I DID NOT INTEND TO ALLOW OLD PREJUDICES SURFACE. PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES KATT

GOD WILL NOT SAVE YOU OUT HERE. THIS IS NO LONGER HIS LAND. I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO SUGAR COAT MY WORDS.

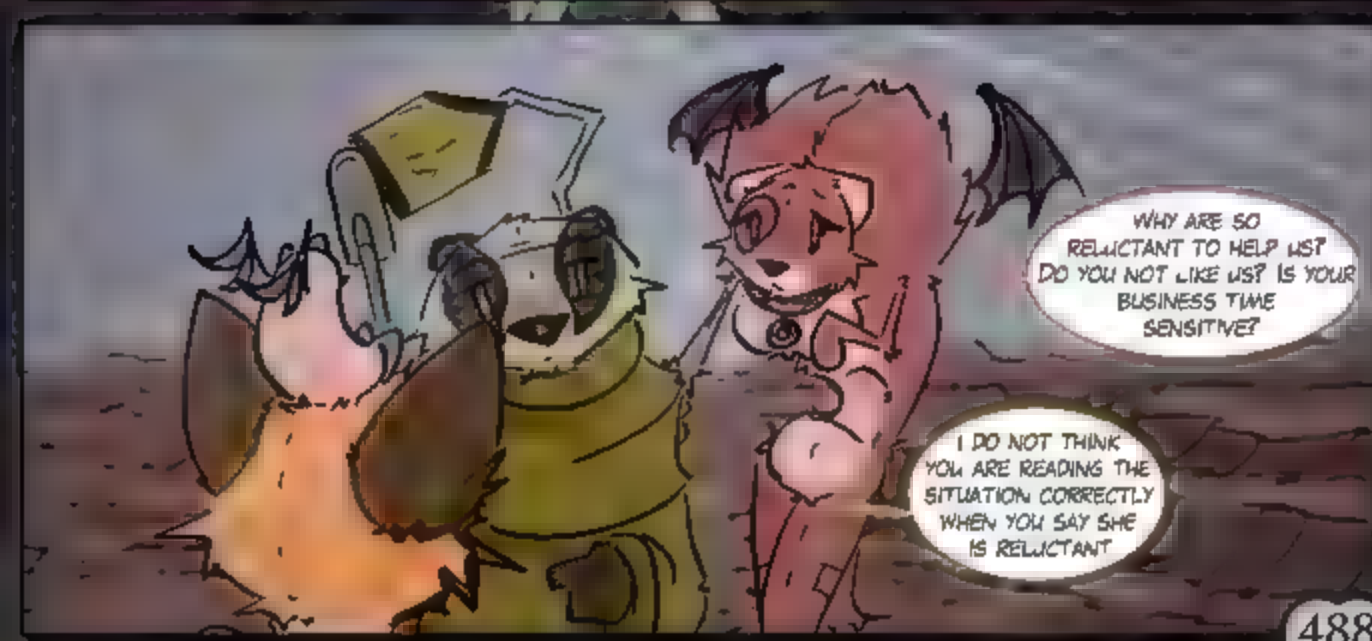
I AM HEADED NORTHWEST, I CAN TRAVEL WITH YOU FOR ANOTHER DAY OR TWO, THREE AT THE MOST FROM THERE WE MUST PART COMPANY

NO YOU CAN'T, BESIDES MONEY MEANS NOTHING TO ME.

YOU REALLY HAVE NOTHING I NEED OR NOT

WE ARE LISTENING, BUT YOU HAVE SAID WHAT WE ALL FEAR IN OUR MINDS. WE ARE ALONE HERE. WE NEED PROTECTION. WE COULD PAY YOU TO STAY LONGER

WE HAVE SUPPLIES.



WHY ARE SO RELUCTANT TO HELP US? DO YOU NOT LIKE US? IS YOUR BUSINESS TIME SENSITIVE?

I DO NOT THINK YOU ARE READING THE SITUATION CORRECTLY WHEN YOU SAY SHE IS RELUCTANT

YOU DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THE
CONSEQUENCES OF
BEING AROUND ME
TROUBLE FINDS ME
NO MATTER
WHERE I GO.

KATT?

I'M SORRY
HONEY, WHAT
IS IT?

GREEN...

GREEN?

GREEN.

GRASS.

GRASS?

IMAGINE IT
AS THICK AS FUR
FOR AS FAR AS THE
EYE CAN SEE. RIBBLING
AND DANCING IN
THE BREEZE

MAY I
TOUCH IT?

YES, BE CAREFUL
THOUGH. YOU DON'T
WANT TO HURT IT. THE
GRASS IS CHECKING TO SEE
IF IS SAFE TO
GROW AGAIN.



GRASS.
LIFE IS RETURNING
TO THE WORLD.

IT'S A SIGN,
A GOOD OMEN.

IT'S GRASS.



LOOK MY FELLOW
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
GOD HAS GIVEN US A SIGN
THAT WE ARE ON THE RIGHT PATH.
DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS
LOSE HOPE.

YOU DO
NOT BELIEVE YOUR
GOD SENT IT TO YOU
AS A SIGN?

LAZILY EAST

LATER IT
WILL BE LEANING
WEST

IT IS
REMARKABLE,
LIFE. EVEN MORE
REMARKABLE IS THE
INTERPRETATIONS GIVEN
TO EVEN THE MOST
RANDOM LIFE.

WHICH WAY
WAS THE BLADE
LEANING?

ANOTHER SIGN,
HALLELUJAH.

FOLLOWING
THE SUN.

IF IT IS
NOT A SIGN
WHY DO THEY ALL
SAY SO?

HOPE. HOPE IS
A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR.
IT IS NOT SO MUCH THE SIGN
THEY THINK IT IS, AS IT IS
A SYMBOL REPRESENTING
LIFE.

GOD DID
NOT PUT IT
THERE?

PERHAPS HE
DID PERHAPS HE DIDN'T
IT IS NOT FOR US TO KNOW
THAT IS NOT THE WILL OF
GOD. THE WILL OF GOD WOULD
WANT US TO ADMIRE WHAT IT IS,
RATHER THAN IF HIS
HAND GRACED IT

CAREFUL FRIAR,
YOU ARE BEGINNING TO
MAKE SENSE. ORGANIZED
RELIGION WILL KICK YOU OUT
OF THEIR CLUB IF THEY HEAR
ALL THAT RATIONAL
COMMON SENSE

GREEN.

I KNOW
I AM A HERETIC
AT HEART

I CAN'T STAY
LONG FRIAR. MY
BROTHER COLE IS AFTER
ME, HE WILL FIND ME, AND
IF I AM HERE WHEN
HE DOES.

I KNOW
MY CHILD,
I KNOW.

HE'S NOT
VERY NICE.

ARE YOU
TIRED HONEY?

NO.

YOU SHOULD GET
SOME REST

AWWW I
WANTED TO TALK
TO THE FRIAR

WHAT DID
YOU WANT TO ASK
HIM HONEY?

YOU CAN AS
ME ANYTHING
MY CHILD

WELL...

WHY ARE
THEY ALL...

DEFORMED?

A GOOD QUESTION
LITTLE ALICE. THE HYBRID
IS A TROUBLED BEING. USUALLY
THE PRODUCT OF INCOMPATIBLE
INTER SPECIES MIXING.

DEFORMITIES ARE
CAUSED BY GENES COLLIDING
AND GETTING CONFUSED.
MOST PEOPLE DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THEM.

THEY THINK THEY
ARE DANGEROUS, SICK,
OR MENTALLY UNSTABLE.
THE PEOPLE CHASE THEM OFF
OR TREAT THEM BADLY JUST
BECAUSE THEY LOOK
DIFFERENT

THAT'S SAD.
WHY DON'T THE
PEOPLE TRY TO GET
TO KNOW THEM?

MOST PEOPLE
ARE AFRAID OF THEM
DEEP DOWN.

BUT THEY
ARE NICE.

THEY ARE AND
THAT IS WHAT IT SO
SAD. THEY ARE TREATED
VERY BADLY FOR THE WAY
THEY LOOK AND THE
SUPERSTITION
ABOUT THEM.

SUPERSTITION?

THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THEY ARE UNCLEAN BEINGS BECAUSE THEY ARE MIXED. IT COMES FROM LONG YEARS OF PREJUDICE ENFORCED BY A VERY EVIL MAN.

Do you want your
taxes to pay for
the mistakes?

WHY IS DIFFERENT BAD? THE GIRLS AT THE SLAVE FARM DIDN'T LIKE ME CAUSE I HAD HALF A TAIL. THEY CALLED ME A HYBRID, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT A HYBRID WAS

THERE ARE A GREAT DEAL OF HYBRIDS THAT HAVE VERY FEW DEFORMITIES AND YOU WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO SAY THEY WERE DIFFERENT AT FIRST GLANCE.

Keep the genetics stable
Keep the species clean.

THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE THAT DO NOT TAKE THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT THEY SAY OR DO.

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THEY PUSH IT AWAY

WHY CAN'T EVERYONE JUST BE NICE TO EACH OTHER?

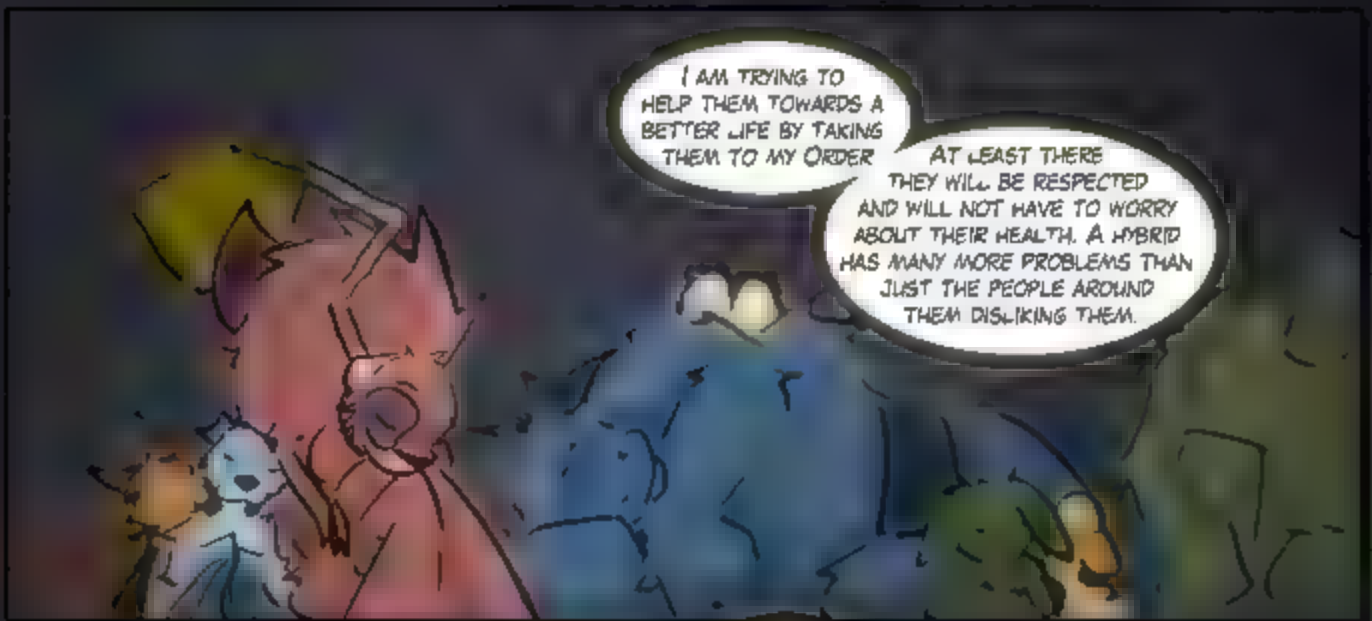
THAT IS A QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN ASKED SINCE THE FIRST PERSON SPOKE

THE WORLD IS CHANGING MONEY, MAYBE THIS TIME AROUND PEOPLE WILL ALL BE NICE TO EACH OTHER.

THEY'LL BE NICE AGAIN WHEN THEY ALL HAVE BATHES

AT THE VERY LEAST THEY WILL NO LONGER SMELL AS BAD

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAVE THE HYBRIDS FRIAR PEKIN?



I AM TRYING TO
HELP THEM TOWARDS A
BETTER LIFE BY TAKING
THEM TO MY ORDER

AT LEAST THERE
THEY WILL BE RESPECTED
AND WILL NOT HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT THEIR HEALTH. A HYBRID
HAS MANY MORE PROBLEMS THAN
JUST THE PEOPLE AROUND
THEM DISLIKING THEM.



I HOPE
THEY ALL GET
THERE SAFE
AND HAPPY

SO DO I
MY CHILD SO
DO I.

SLEEPY?

I AM NOW.



WHAT TROUBLES
YOU MY CHILD?

SHE ALMOST
DIED IN THAT FIRE
PRIAR. I ALMOST
LOST HER.

I... I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO. I WAS SLAPPED
IN THE FACE WITH THE FACT
THAT I CANNOT PROTECT
HER ALL THE TIME.

I AM BULLET PROOF,
SHE IS NOT ANYONE AROUND
ME IS GOING TO FALL INTO MY
GRAVITATIONAL WELL
OF TROUBLE.

KATT MY CHILD,
LOOK AT WHAT YOU
HAVE BEEN THROUGH THE
LAST FEW MONTHS. THIS
HAS NOT BEEN EASY ON
EITHER OF YOU.

SALLY'S DEATH HAS
AFFECTED YOU MORE THAN
YOU KNOW. IT OPENED YOUR
EYES TO THE PRECIOUSNESS OF
LIFE. ALICE IS THE EMBODIMENT
OF THAT FACT. SALLY
WAS NOT YO-

IT WAS MY FAULT
THIS TIME FRIAR. WE COULD
HAVE GONE ON WITH OUR
SHORT SUPPLIES.

WE WOULD HAVE
REACHED OUR DESTINATION,
HUNGRY, BUT WE WOULD HAVE
REACHED IT. INSTEAD...
COLE HAPPENED.

YOU HAVE BOTH
MENTIONED THIS COLE.
IS HE TRULY YOUR
BROTHER?

I DID NOT KNOW
I HAD A BROTHER UNTIL
I LAID EYES ON HIM. THERE IS
NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HE
IS IN FACT MY BROTHER. THERE
ARE TOO MANY FEELINGS
DEEP DOWN THAT
CONFIRM IT.

WE ARE OF THE
SAME STOCK, BUT HIS
MIND IS WARPED AND TWISTED.
I LEAD ALICE DIRECTLY INTO THE PATH
OF DANGER WITHOUT KNOWING. I MIGHT
AS WELL HAVE THROWN HER IN
THE FIRE MYSELF.

YOU DID NOT KNOW
OF HIS EXISTENCE. HOW COULD
YOU BLAME YOURSELF FOR THAT?
INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM GET
AWAY WITH WHAT
THEY DID YOU.

DID WHAT I DO BEST

I DON'T HAVE THE
RIGHT TO SUBJECT A CHILD
TO MY LIFE. I AM A DANGER
TO ALL THOSE AROUND ME.
I CAN'T JUST HIDE IN A CAVE.
THAT ISN'T FAIR
TO ALICE.

WHAT DO I DO?
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO
RAISE A CHILD. FOR ONCE IN
MY LIFE I AM STRUCK WITH A CONSTANT
LIST OF FEARS. FEAR OF LOSING HER,
FEAR OF HER GOING HUNGRY, FEAR
FOR HER HEALTH, FEAR FOR HER
MORAL STABILITY, FEAR.

SHE LOVES YOU
KATT YOU CAN SEE IT
IN HER EYES, IN HER SOUL.
I DO NOT THINK EVEN YOU
COULD STOP HER F
ROM FOLLOWING.

KATT MY CHILD,
THE MERE FACT THAT
YOU CONSIDER HER WELL BEING
IN ALL OF YOUR DECISIONS IS PROOF
THAT YOU ARE DOING
SOMETHING CORRECT

IF YOU FELT NOTHING
FOR HER SAFETY THEN YOU
WOULD BE THE MONSTER YOU
THINK YOU ARE. THERE IS NO RIGHT
WAY TO RAISE A CHILD OR KEEP
THEM SAFE. YOU HAVE TO PREPARE
THEM THE BEST YOU CAN AND
TAKE THE REST
AS IT COMES.

MY SUGGESTION,
AND THIS IS ONLY A
SUGGESTION, AS I KNOW
HOW DIFFICULT THIS WORLD
CAN BE. SHOW ALICE THAT THERE
ARE OTHER WAYS TO SOLVE
PROBLEMS THAT DO NOT
RESULT IN VIOLENCE.

THAT IS A
WISE BUT IMPRACTICAL
SOLUTION.

AS I SAID, JUST
A SUGGESTION FOR THE
MOMENTS THE FANGS ARE
NOT AT YOUR THROAT

YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE
YOURSELF FOR SALLY'S DEATH
AND ACCEPT ALICE AS YOUR DAUGHTER.
IT IS THE FIRST STEP IN MAKING SURE
YOUR MIND WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ALICE.
THAT SLAYER MURDERED SALLY NOT
BECAUSE SHE WAS WITH YOU,
OR TRIED TO EMULATE YOU.

SHE MURDERED
HER OUT OF
PURE SPITE.

THERE IS A LIGHT
THAT SPRINGS FROM
HER DEATH.

OH? I WOULD
LIKE TO SEE A LIGHT
OUT OF AN INNOCENT'S
DEATH.

YOU CAN LOOK
AT SALLY'S DEATH AS
YOUR FAULT, OR THE FAULT
OF THE SLAYER. OR YOU CAN
LOOK AT SALLY'S DEATH AS A
SACRIFICE. HER LIGHT WILL
SNUFFED OUT EARLY TO
LEAD YOU TO SOMEONE
WHO NEEDED YOU MORE.

WITHOUT HER
SACRIFICE YOU WOULD
NEVER HAVE CHASED THAT
MAN, HE WOULD NOT HAVE LEAD
YOU TO THAT DEN OF EVIL YOU
WOULD HAVE NEVER
MET ALICE.

HER SACRIFICE LEAD
YOU TO ALICE, SOME WOULD
CALL IT A COINCIDENCE.
I CALL IT A MIRACLE.

SNIP

ALICE CALLED
ME A MIRACLE.

PERHAPS SHE WAS
A CLEARER PICTURE OF
THINGS THAN YOU THINK.

SHE HAS A FRESH MIND,
WITH LITTLE IN THE AREA OF
PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS.

AS I HEAR
IT, SO DO YOU.

SALLY'S MIRACLE LEAD
YOU TO ALICE, ALICE'S MIRACLE
SAVED HER, YOUR MIRACLE
LIES IN YOUR LAP

SOMETIMES MIRACLES
CREATE THEMSELVES TO HELP A
NEED IN THE WORLD. SOMETIMES
WE CAN THANK OUR CHOSEN GOD
FOR SENDING THEM.

NEXT YOU WILL
TELL ME IT WAS ALL
IN GODS PLAN.

SOMETIMES GOD NEEDS
TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO
RATIONAL THOUGHT SOMETIMES
YOU JUST HAVE TO LET
EVERYTHING GO AND
HAVE FAITH IN GOD

I BELIEVE IN GOD,
NOT FOR HIS AWE
INSPIRING POWER,
OMNIPRESENCE, OR
GIFT OF LIFE AFTER
DEATH. NO, I BELIEVE
BECAUSE OF THE
MESSAGE HE
HAS SENT.

TREAT YOUR FELLOW
MAN AS YOU WOULD LIKE
TO BE TREATED. HELP THOSE
IN NEED. NEVER TAKE MORE THAN
YOU NEED. AND EMBRACE YOUR
FELLOW MAN NO MATTER THE
CREED, CULTURE, OR BELIEF.
BE HAPPY.

FRIAR THE MORE YOU
MAKE SENSE THE LESS I THINK
YOU TRULY BELIEVE A
GOD EXISTS.

I WILL TELL YOU
ONE THING... I DO NOT
BELIEVE GOD DEALS IN MIRACLES.
I BELIEVE MIRACLES ARE A MANIFESTATION
OF THE NEED TO RELIEVE TRUE SUFFERING.
SUFFERING SO PURE IT CALLS UPON
WORTHY SOULS WILLING
TO SERVE.

SOUNDS LIKE
YOU HAVE YOUR
SERMON READY

BAH

I STAND FIRM
IN MY BELIEFS, I DO
NOT LIKE PREACHING. THAT
IS FOR FATHERS, BLESS THEIR
SOULS THAT HAVE GROWN
WEARY OF WANDERING
THE PATH.

I DO NOT NEED
TO CONVERT A SOUL TO
MAKE IT A BETTER 'SOUL'. ALL
I HAVE TO DO IS LEND A HAND
AND RELIEVE A BURDEN
IF I CAN.

HOW IS BELIEF
IN MY GOD GOING TO
HELP THEM WHEN WHAT THEY
NEED IS A PHYSICAL HAND? FALSE
HOPE IN PRAYING TO A MAN
WHO ISN'T GOING
TO ANSWER?

THEY NEED GOD'S
REPRESENTATIVE TO LEND
THEM A HAND TO HELP THEM
THROUGH THEIR FLIGHT A PRACTICAL
SOLUTION BEFORE A
FAITH SOLUTION.

CAREFUL FRIAR,
YOU MIGHT CONVERT THIS
BLASPHEMOUS WRETCH IF YOU
ARE NOT CAREFUL.

I DO NOT THINK
YOU ARE THE, SOMETHING
ELSE, YOU THINK YOU ARE. YOU
MAY HAVE NO FAITH IN GOD, BUT
HE HAS FAITH IN ALL OF
HIS CREATIONS.

AH, BUT YOU
SEE FRIAR.

THE HAND OF GOD
WAS NOT THE ONE WHO
CREATED MY MOLD.

MAYBE ONE
DAY FRIAR, MAYBE
ONE DAY.

TELL ME FRIAR,
YOU HAVE CAUSED ME
TO CRY TWICE NOW, WHAT
ABOUT YOUR OWN GRIEF?

AGAIN YOUR CHOICE
OF WORDS LEAVES ME TROUBLED
ONE DAY YOU WILL HAVE TO ALLOW
ME TO HEAR YOUR TRUE TALE.

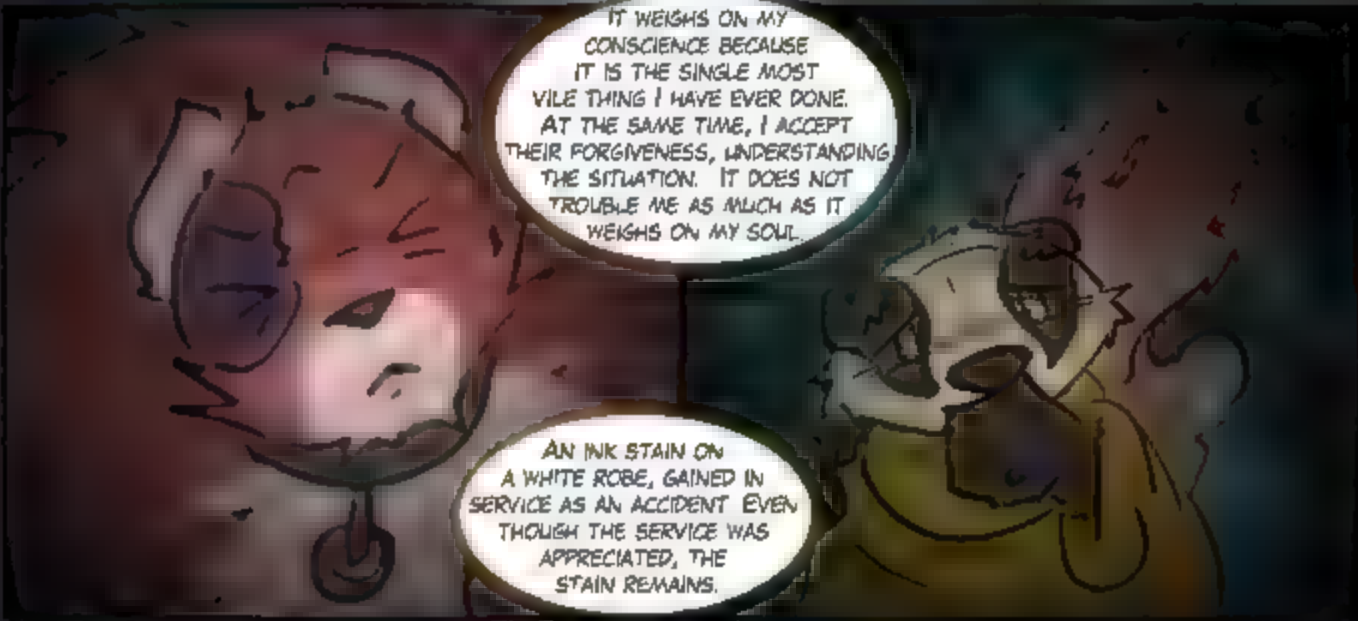


I SUFFER SILENTLY
MASKED WITH DETERMINATION
AND THE JOURNEY.

I DREAM ABOUT
IT IN VIVID DETAIL EVERY
NIGHT. SOMETIMES IT
HAPPENS AS IT DID.

SOMETIMES I AM
THE VIOLATOR.

MATILDA HAS
EARNESTLY FORGIVEN
ME, AS HAS JOSEPH. BUT
I CANNOT FORGET HER CRIES
OF PAIN OR THE LOOK UPON
THEIR FACES. PERHAPS IT IS
EASIER FOR THEM TO FORGIVE
MY OFFENSE WHEN IT
BROUGHT THEM
TO FREEDOM.



IT WEIGHS ON MY
CONSCIENCE BECAUSE
IT IS THE SINGLE MOST
VILE THING I HAVE EVER DONE.
AT THE SAME TIME, I ACCEPT
THEIR FORGIVENESS, UNDERSTANDING
THE SITUATION. IT DOES NOT
TROUBLE ME AS MUCH AS IT
WEIGHS ON MY SOUL.

AN INK STAIN ON
A WHITE ROBE, GAINED IN
SERVICE AS AN ACCIDENT EVEN
THOUGH THE SERVICE WAS
APPRECIATED, THE
STAIN REMAINS.

YOU HAVE THIRTY
PAIRS OF HANDS WILLING
TO HELP YOU WASH
AWAY THE STAIN.

YOU ALREADY KNOW
I DO NOT SLEEP IN A NORMAL
FASHION, SO I RETURN YOUR
ADVICE HOPING YOU WILL
FOLLOW IT.

GET SOME REST
KATT MY CHILD. DREAM
HAPPY DREAMS.

OFTEN THE BEST
ADVICE WE GIVE IS THE
ADVICE WE FAIL
TO FOLLOW.

ANY SIGHT OF
THAT MISERABLE OLD
HORSE'S HYBRIDS?

PAW COUNT?

ESCAPED
SLAVES?

WHAT IS THIS,
SOME SORT OF EXODUS?
DID IT JOIN THE
OTHER TWO?

NO SIR
THE TRACKS ARE
MORE DEFINED HERE
THEY CAN NOT BE MORE
THAN A DAY AHEAD.

TWO FRESH SETS
OF TRACKS JOINED THEM
AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL...
MOST LIKELY AN ADULT
AND A CHILD.

WE ARE THREE
DAYS SOUTH OF THE
ASH FUR TERRITORY, BUT
MORE LIKELY THEY ARE
FROM THE COLLAPSE
OF OZ

THERE IS A
THIRD PARTY

NO.
A PROFESSIONAL,
TRAVELING ALONE, LOOKS
LIKE THE THIRD MAY HAVE
BEEN TRACKING THE
SECOND PARTY

TRACKING THE
SECOND PARTY?
SLAVER TRACKER?

NOT BY THE
SMELL OF IT

ONLY NOTICED THE
TRACKER'S TRAIL BECAUSE OF
A FEW CARELESS PRINTS.

LOOKS LIKE OUR
MAIN PARTY IS TOWING
BAGGAGE. NO MATTER, THEY
WILL ALL MEET THE
SAME FATE.

LET'S MOVE OUT.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
CATCH UP BY NOON.

SNIFF
SNIFF

WHAT DO
YOU SMELL?

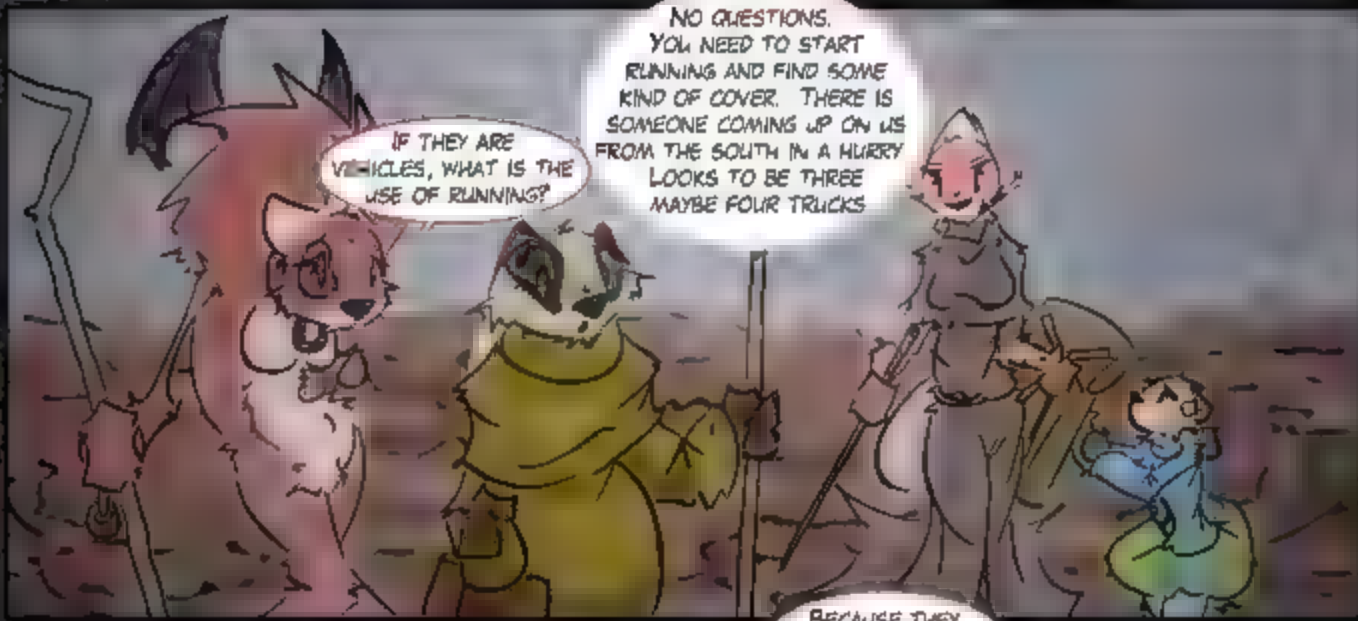
SNIFF

I'M NOT SURE,
THERE'S ALMOST NO
BREEZE TODAY,
BUT

DID TROUBLE
FIND US?

SHIT

LET'S GO
FIND THE FRIAR.



IF THEY ARE VEHICLES, WHAT IS THE USE OF RUNNING?

NO QUESTIONS. YOU NEED TO START RUNNING AND FIND SOME KIND OF COVER. THERE IS SOMEONE COMING UP ON US FROM THE SOUTH IN A HURRY LOOKS TO BE THREE MAYBE FOUR TRUCKS

BECAUSE THEY WILL BE BUSY TRYING TO KILL ME



KATT WE CAN NOT ASK YOU-

NO ASKING, IF I DON'T STAY ALONE, YOU WILL ALL BE MASSACRED AS I TRY TO FEND THEM OFF

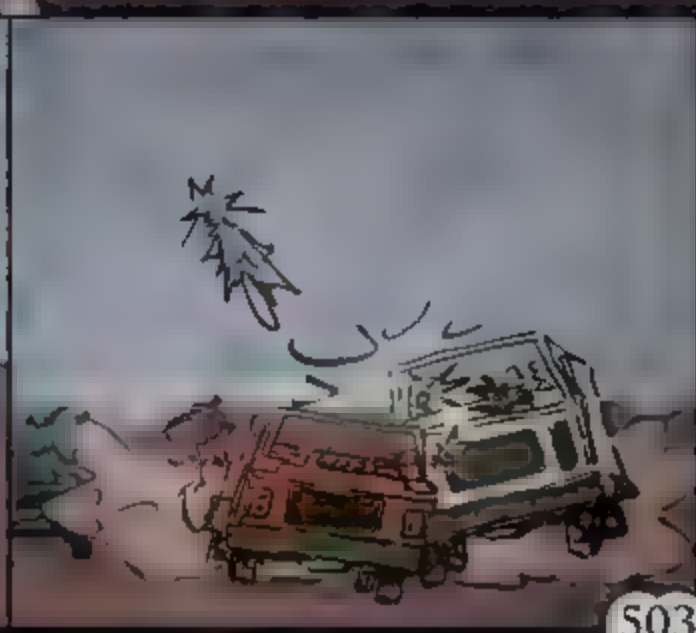
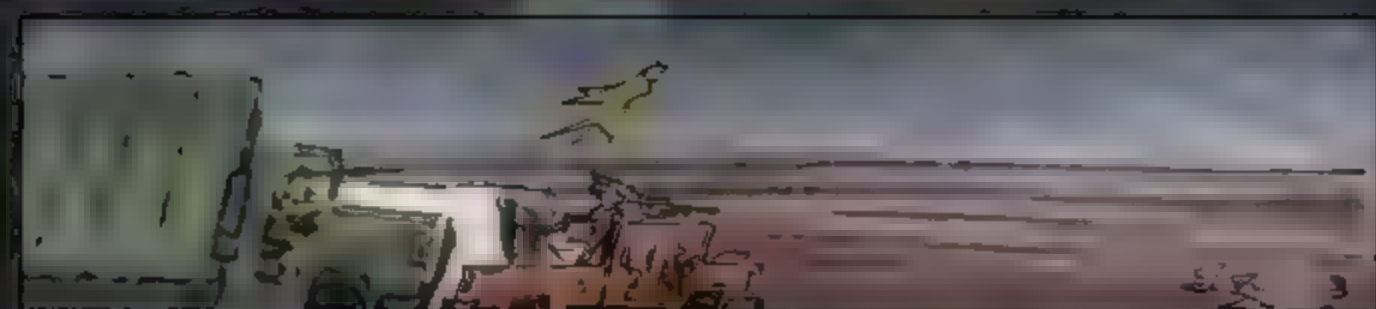
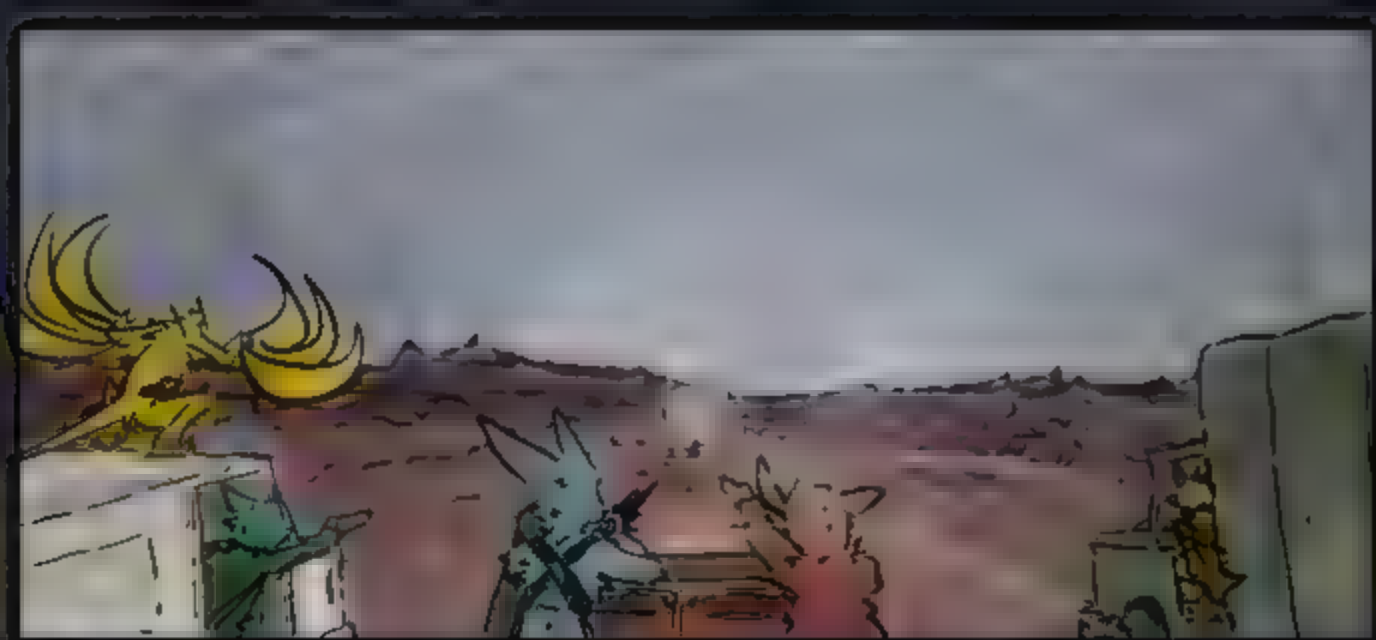
FRIAR, WATCH ALICE FOR ME, KEEP HER SAFE!

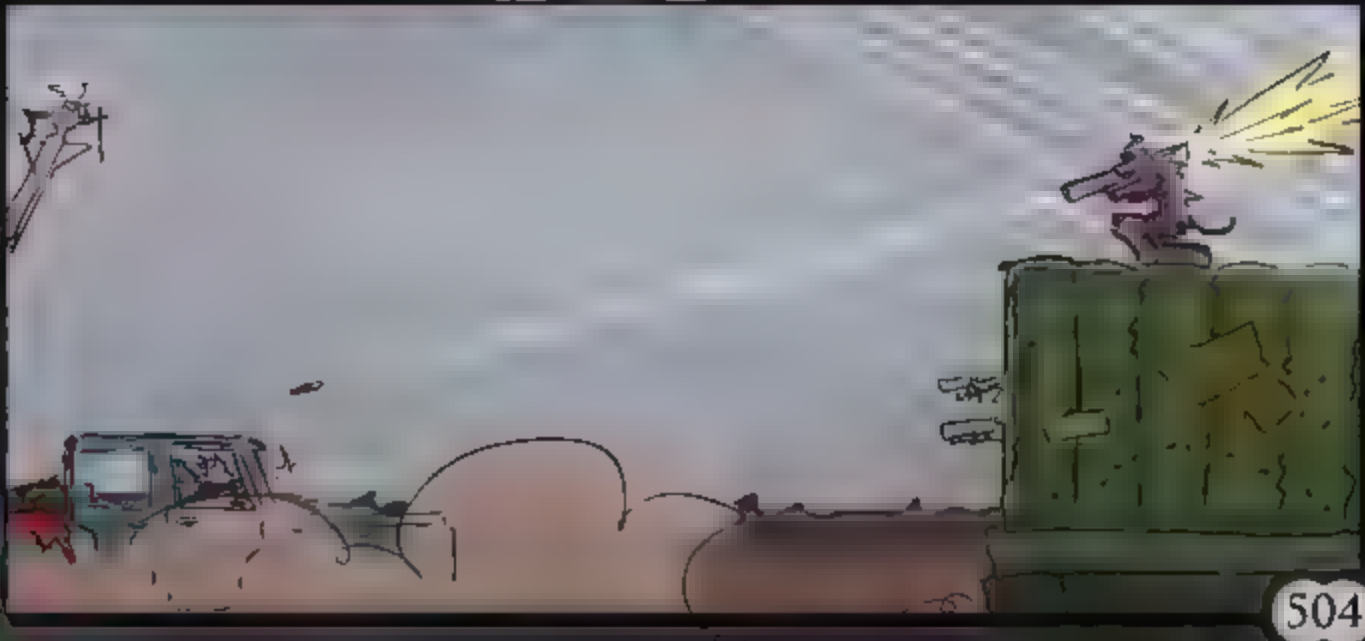


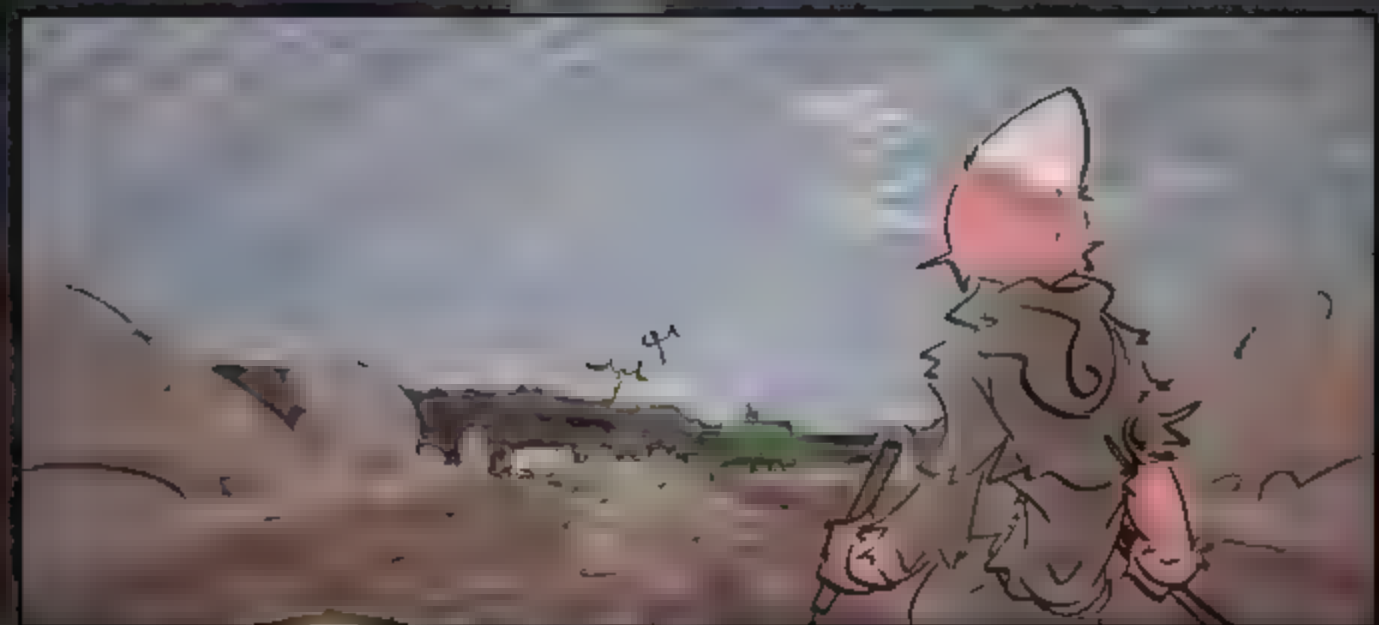
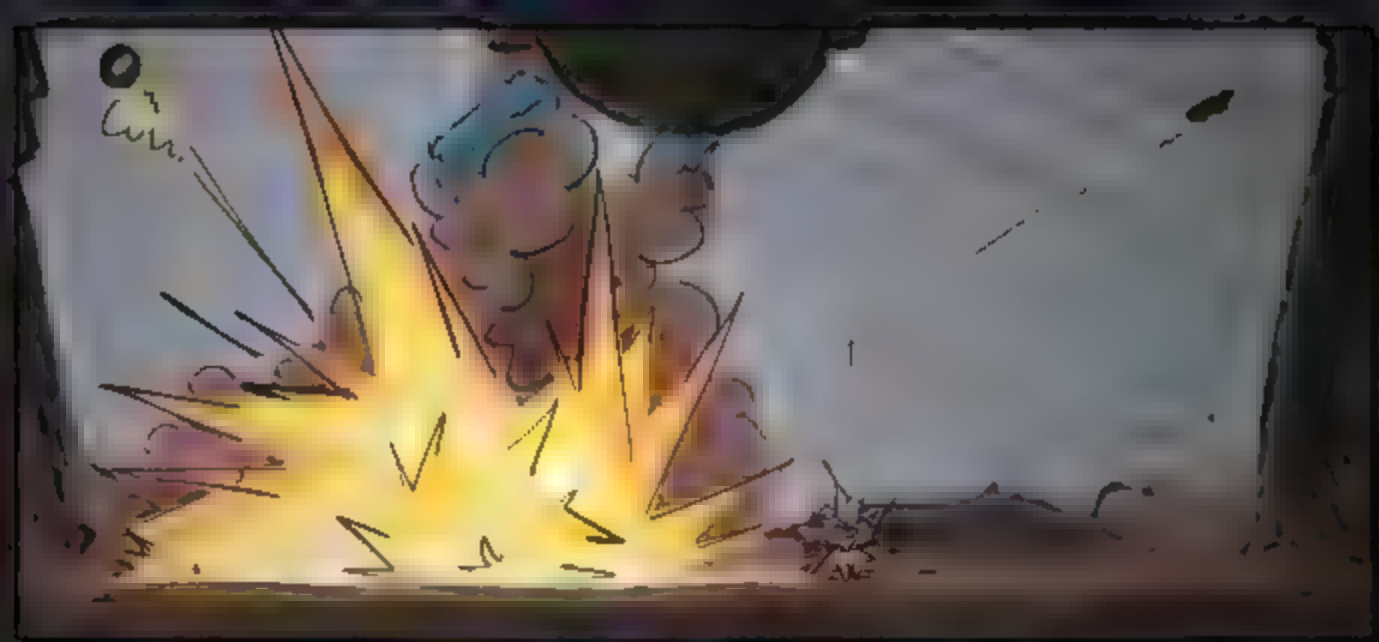
NO KATT!

KATT!!

WE NEED TO GO ALICE.







ALRIGHT FOLKS
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH.

JENNER GET THE
30CAL MOUNTED AND
HESTER GET A ROCKET
POINTED AT THAT PINK BITCH
BEFORE SHE STICKS A
PAW UP MY ASS.



ALRIGHT DEVIL TITS
YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT
YOU'RE BULLETPROOF, BUT...
THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'D STOP
A STIFF BREEZE IT'D BE A SHAME
IF I HAD TO SHOOT A FEW TO
TEACH YOU A LESSON.

FOLKS, WE'RE ALL GONNA
TAKE A LITTLE TRIP THE GOOD
PRIAR HERE HAS A SUBSTANTIAL BOUNTY
ON HIS HEAD. THE REST OF YOU...
WE'LL LETS JUST SAY YOU ARE
NOT REQUIRED TO BE BREATHING
WOPN OUR RETURN.

SO, IF YOU'D ALL
JUST COME ROUND THE
BACK HERE.

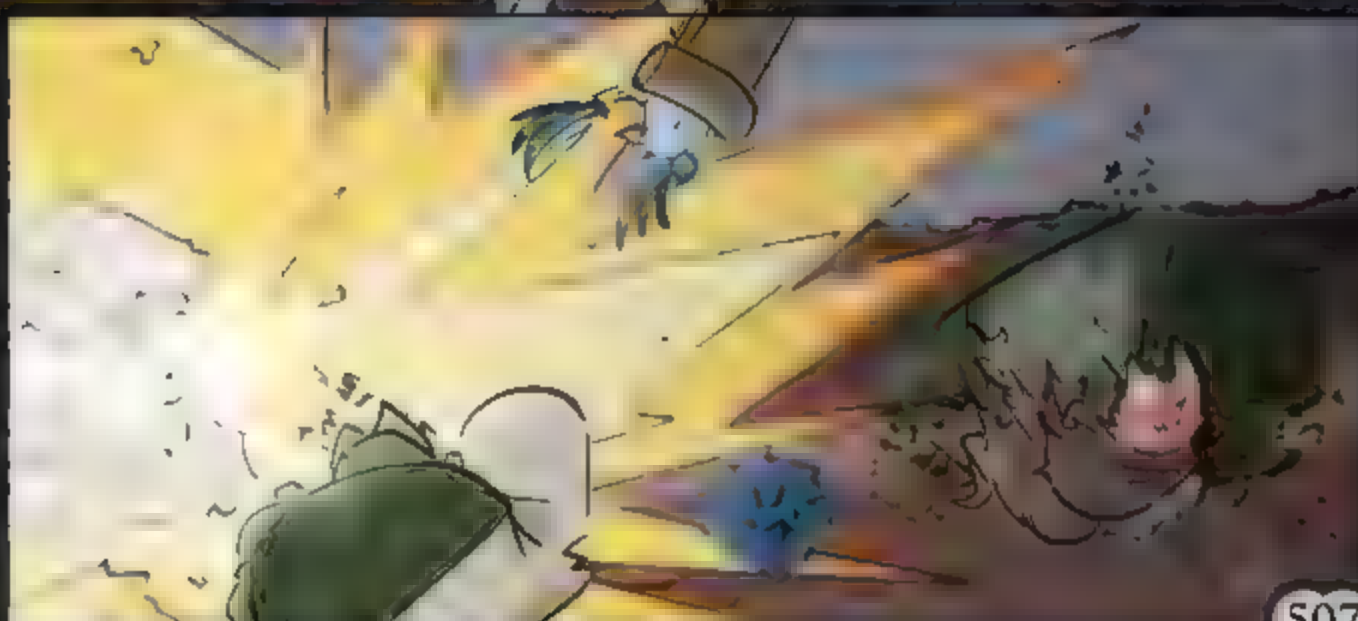
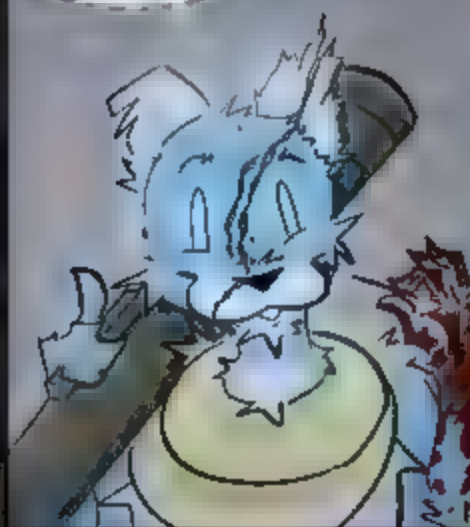
COME NOW
FORM A LINE
THERE'S PLENTY

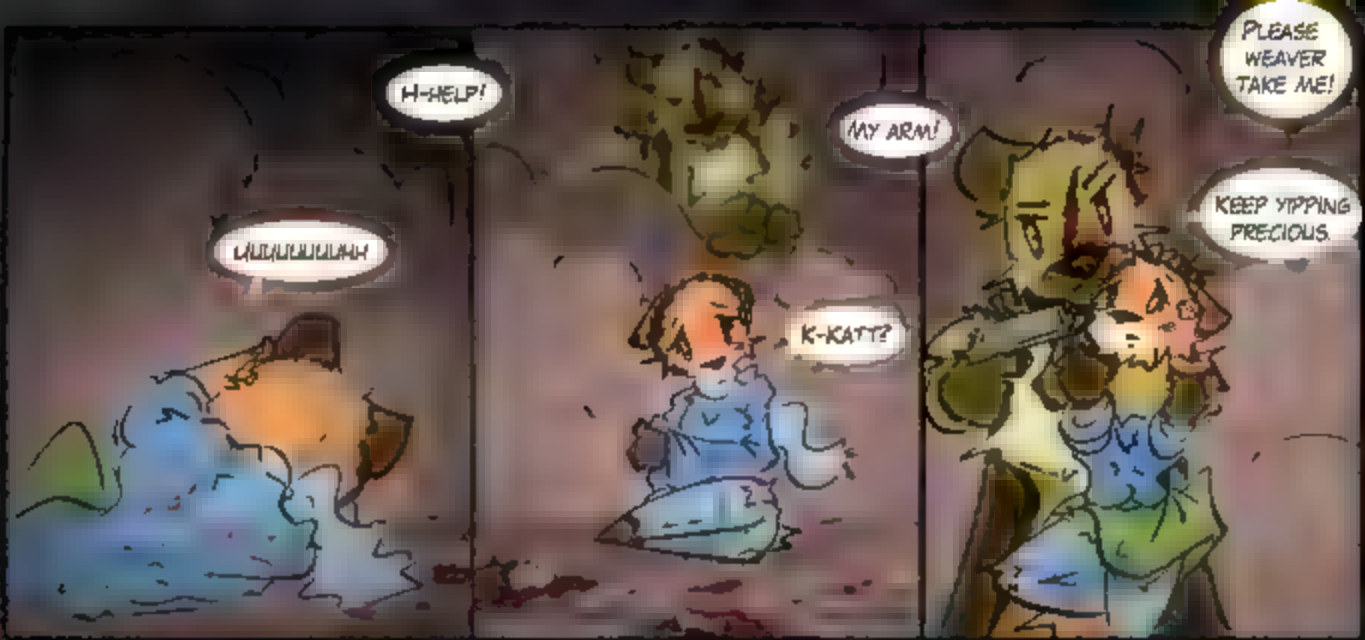
AAHHRRRGGLURE

GOOD MORNING
SISTER!

THE FU-

NO...





H-HELP!

WUWUWUWUWU

MY ARM!

K-KATT?

PLEASE
WEAVER
TAKE ME!

KEEP YIPPING
PRECIOUS.

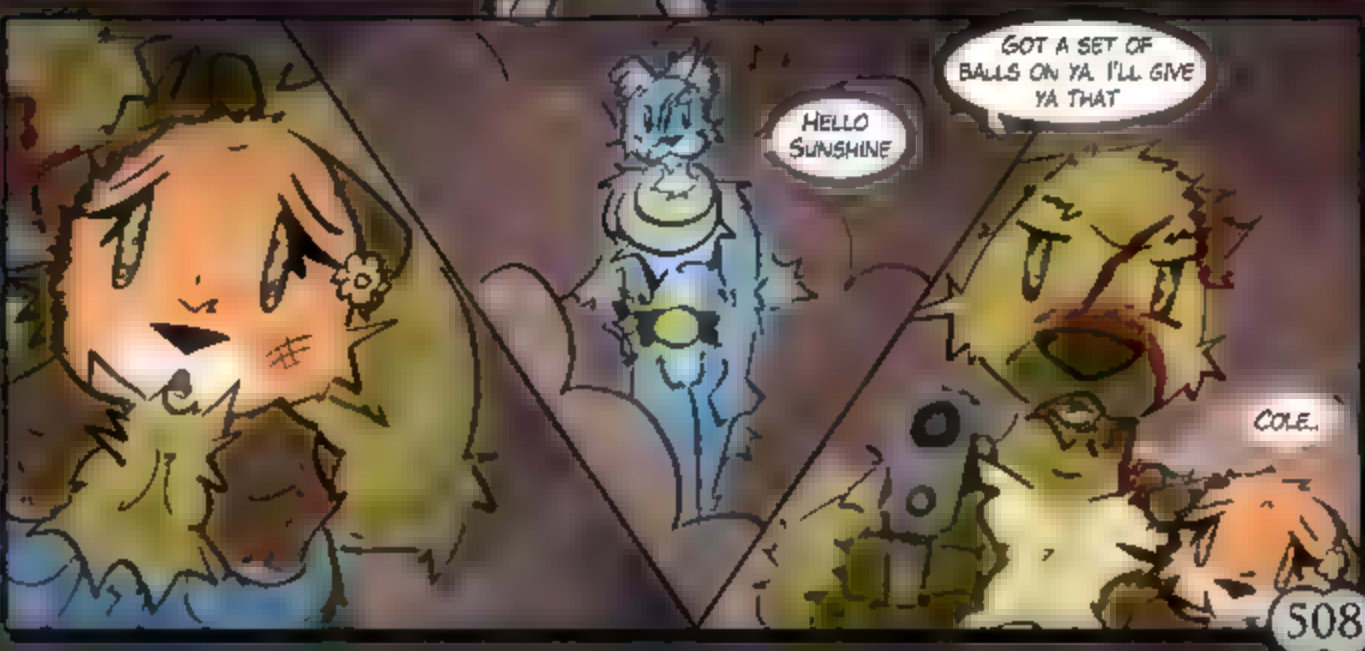


H-HELP!

'BOUT TA CLEAN
THIS PUPS EARS FRIEND.
COME ON OUT

WEAVER
I-I BEG YOU!

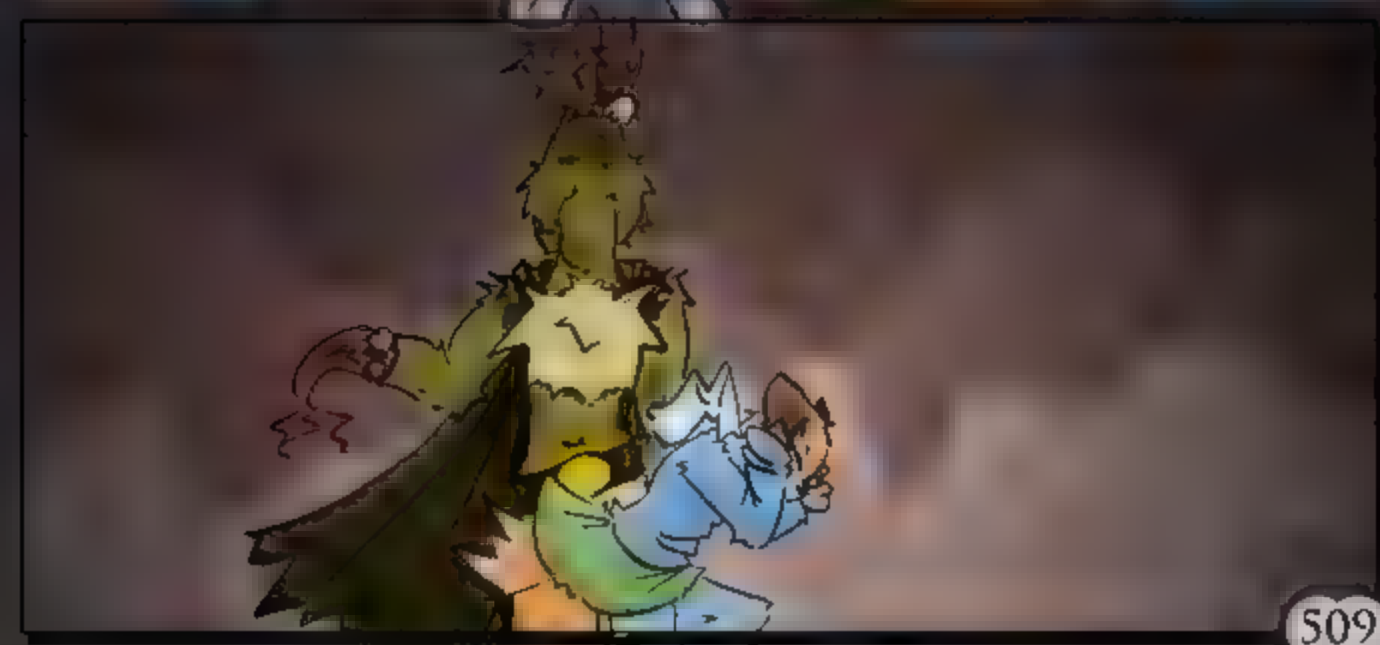
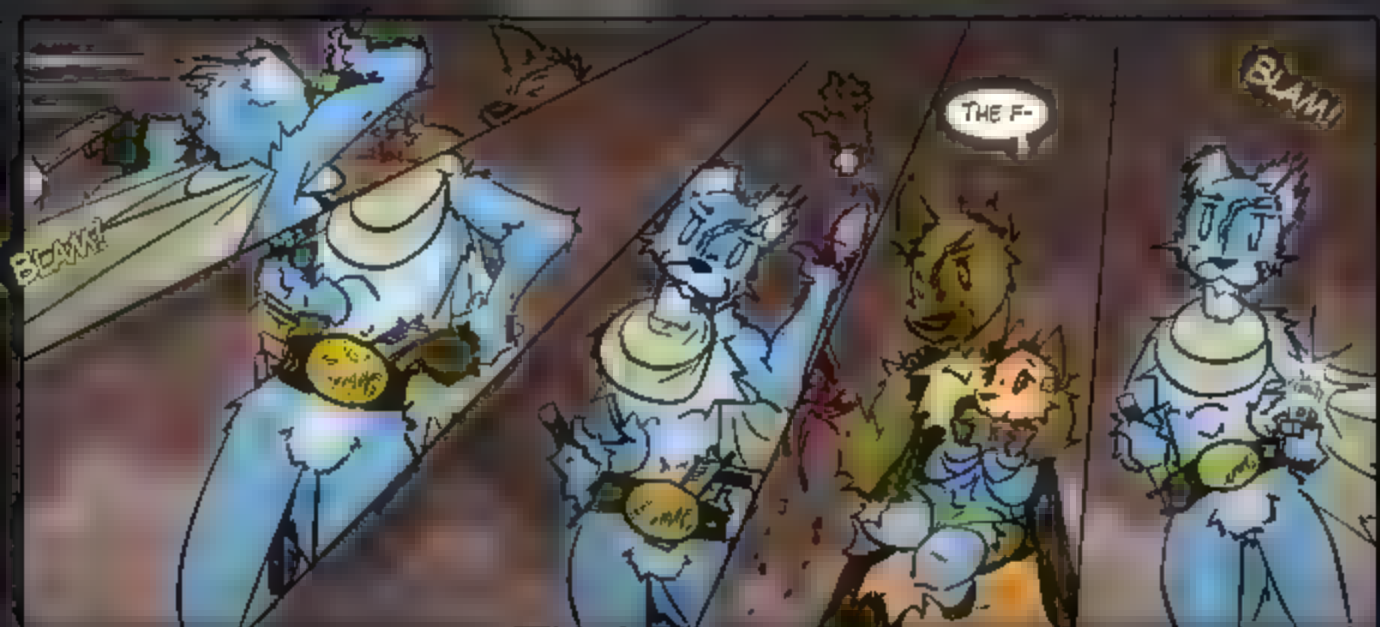
H-HELP!

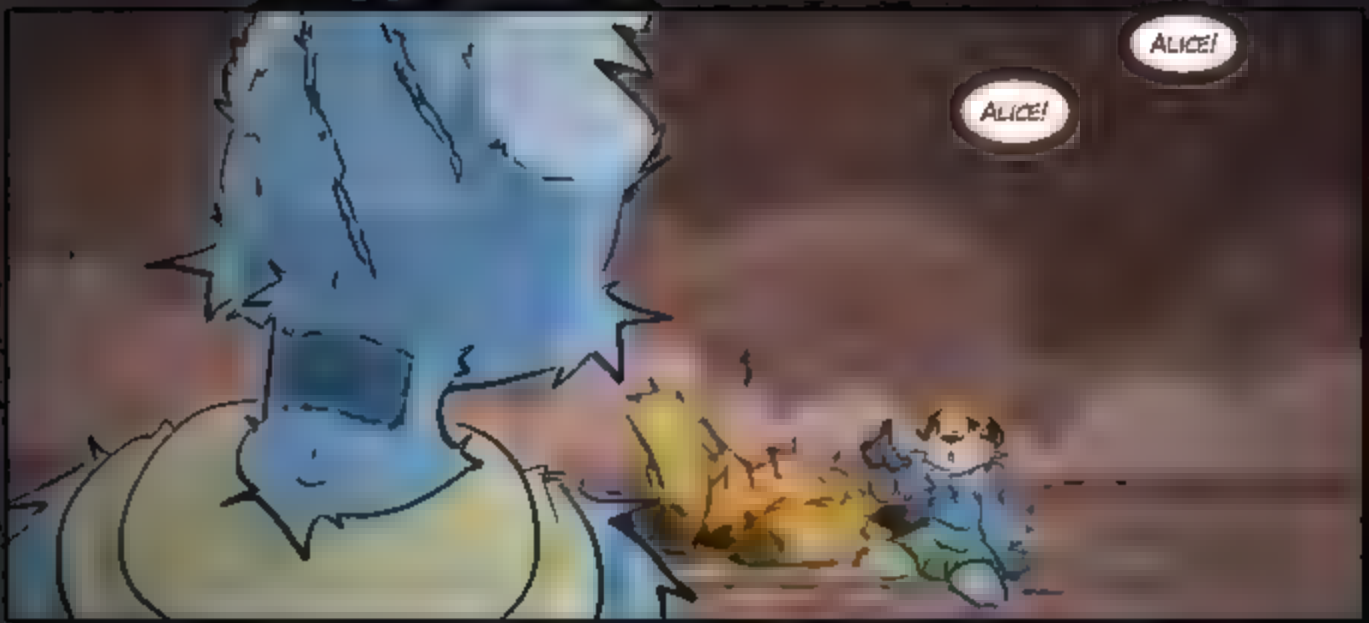


HELLO
SUNSHINE

GOT A SET OF
BALLS ON YA I'LL GIVE
YA THAT

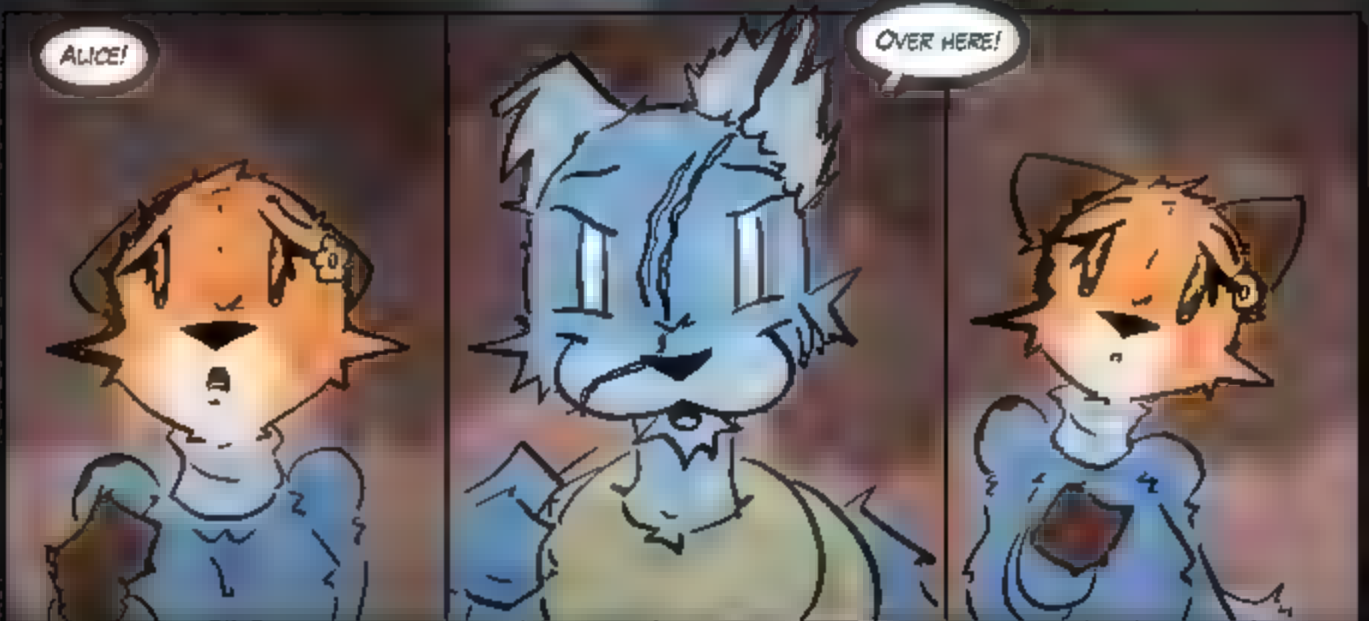
COLE.





ALICE!

ALICE!



ALICE!

OVER HERE!



HELLO SIS.

ALICE! ALICE
HONEY ARE
YOU AL-

YES.

WHAT THE FUCK
DO YOU THINK YOU
ARE DOING COLE?

WELL ABOUT
THIRTY SECONDS AGO
I WAS KILLING
SOME FOOLS.

THEN I SAVED
LITTLE ALICE HERE-

CUT THE SHIT
COLE! YOU TRIED TO KILL
ME, AND THEN YOU TRIED
TO KILL ALICE

KILL?
MY DEAR
SISTER YOU DO
EXAGGERATE

I NEVER
INTENDED TO KILL
EITHER OF YOU.

IN FACT KILLING
YOU WOULD RENDER MY
ULTIMATE GOAL A FAILURE.
I NEED YOU ALIVE
AND WILLING.

THE ONLY REASON I
DON'T KILL YOU RIGHT NOW IS THE
SIMPLE FACT THAT THERE ARE
INNOCENT BEINGS AROUND

MY DEAR SISTER...

STOP CALLING
ME THAT!

SO CRANKY,
I DID JUST KILL EVERYONE
TRYING TO CATCH YOUR...

YOUR HELP
COMES AT TOO
HIGH A PRICE.

I AM AN
EXPENSIVE WHORE,
WHAT CAN I SAY



I KNOW YOUR
GAME, LEAVE!

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT,
JUST TRYING TO LEND A
HAND. A BROTHER HAS TO
WATCH OUT FOR
HIS SISTER.

COLE! LEAVE!



I'M GOING,
I'M GOING.
NO NEED TO GET
YOUR PANTIES IN
A BUNCH.



WELL EVERYONE,
THIS WAS FUN. I HAD A
GREAT TIME, THANKS FOR
HAVING ME OUT

Y'ALL TAKE CARE,
DRIVE SAFE, TIP
YOUR WAITRESS.

FRIAR GET YOUR
SURVIVORS INTO THAT
TRUCK AND DRIVE UNTIL
THE ENGINE SEIZES

WHAT ABOUT-

YOU NEED TO LEAVE
NOW THAT EXPLOSION AND
LOVELY CLOUD IS AS GOOD AS
KNOCKING ON EVERY DOOR
WITHIN MILES.



I NEED TO GO

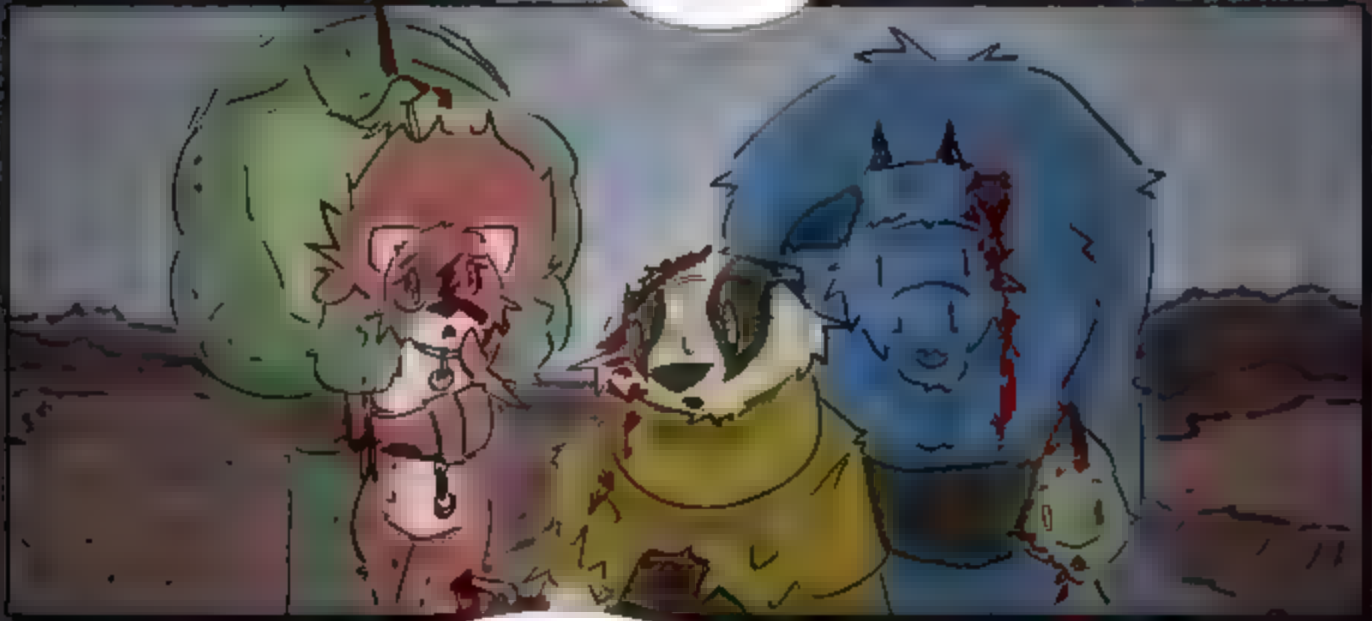
Y-YOU CAN'T!
WE NEED YOU TO-

HOW DO YOU
KNOW HE IS TELLING
THE TRUTH?

HE WANTS TO
BREED WITH ME

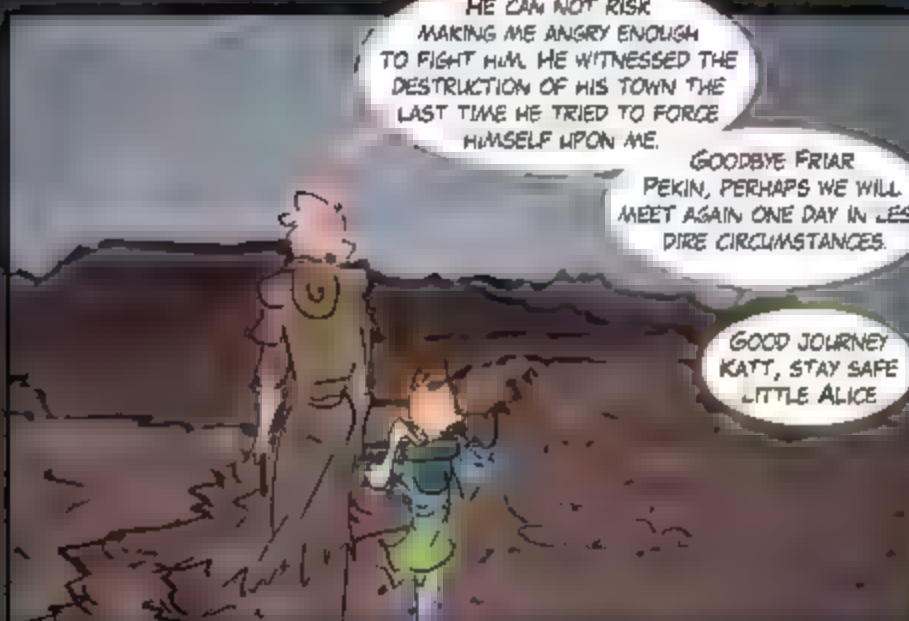


YOU NEED TO GO.
COLE WILL BE OUT THERE
FOLLOWING ME. HE WILL NOT
HURT ALICE OR ME,
BUT YOU...

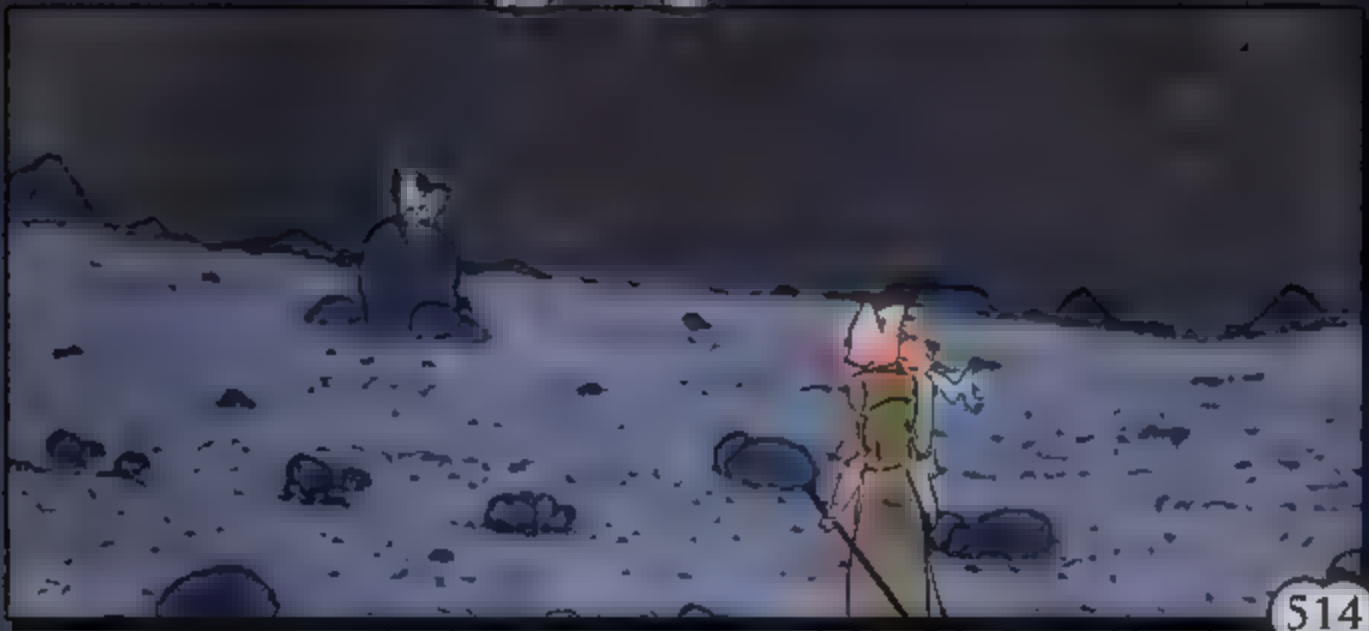


HE CAN NOT RISK
MAKING ME ANGRY ENOUGH
TO FIGHT HIM. HE WITNESSED THE
DESTRUCTION OF HIS TOWN THE
LAST TIME HE TRIED TO FORCE
HIMSELF UPON ME.

GOODBYE FRIAR
PEKIN, PERHAPS WE WILL
MEET AGAIN ONE DAY IN LESS
DIRE CIRCUMSTANCES.



GOOD JOURNEY
KATT, STAY SAFE
LITTLE ALICE





WE KEEP RUNNING
INTO EACH OTHER,
IT MUST BE FATE

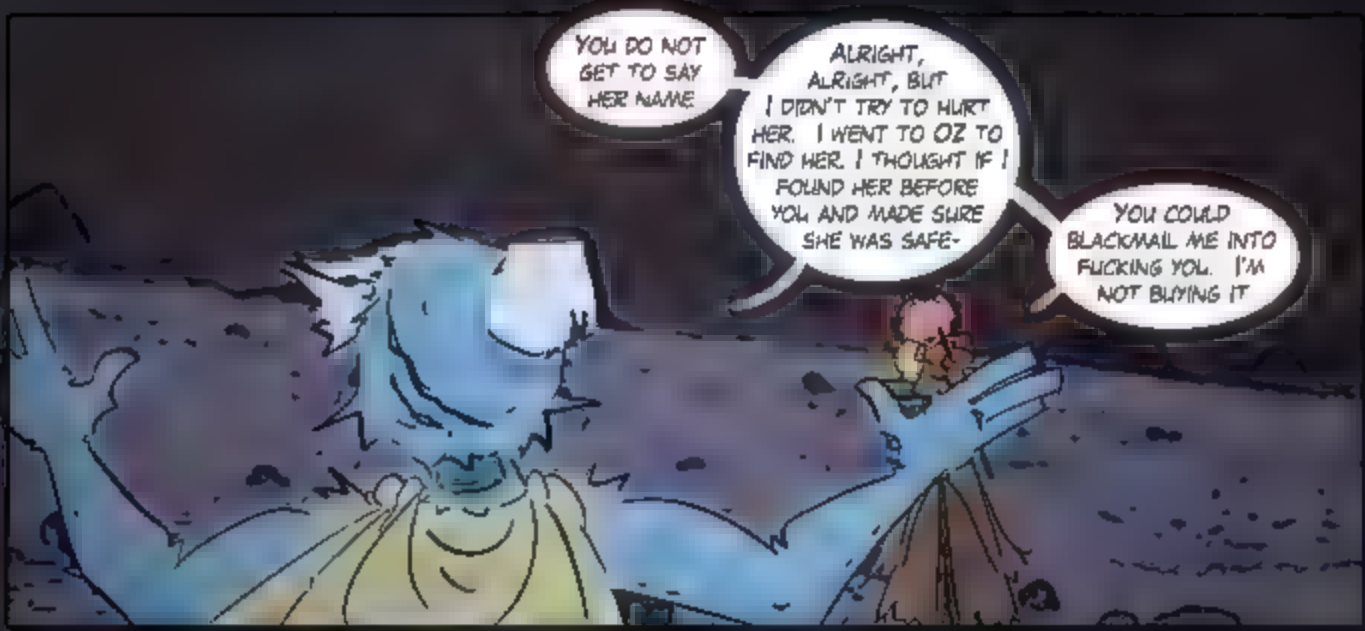


AW COME ON SIS.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT,
I HELPED YOU OUT BACK THERE.
YOUR FRIENDS WOULD HAVE
BEEN MASSACRED.

I KNOW YOU HOLD
SOME RESENTMENT FROM
OUR FIRST MEETING, IT DID
NOT GO EXACTLY AS PLANNED.
NOT THAT I EXPECTED IT
WOULD, BUT THAT
WAS WEEKS AGO.



I DIDN'T
TRY TO HURT
ALICE



YOU DO NOT
GET TO SAY
HER NAME

ALRIGHT,
ALRIGHT, BUT
I DIDN'T TRY TO HURT
HER. I WENT TO OZ TO
FIND HER. I THOUGHT IF I
FOUND HER BEFORE
YOU AND MADE SURE
SHE WAS SAFE-

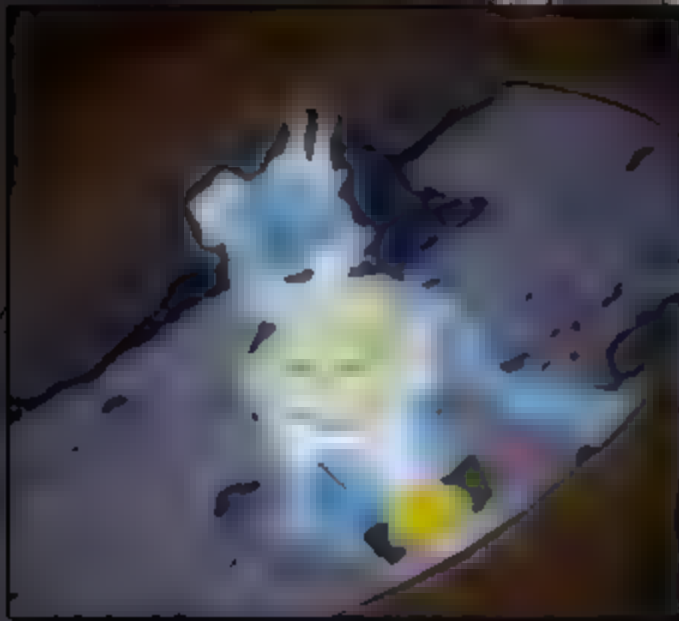
YOU COULD
BLACKMAIL ME INTO
FUCKING YOU. I'M
NOT BUYING IT



YOU CUT
ME DEEP SIS

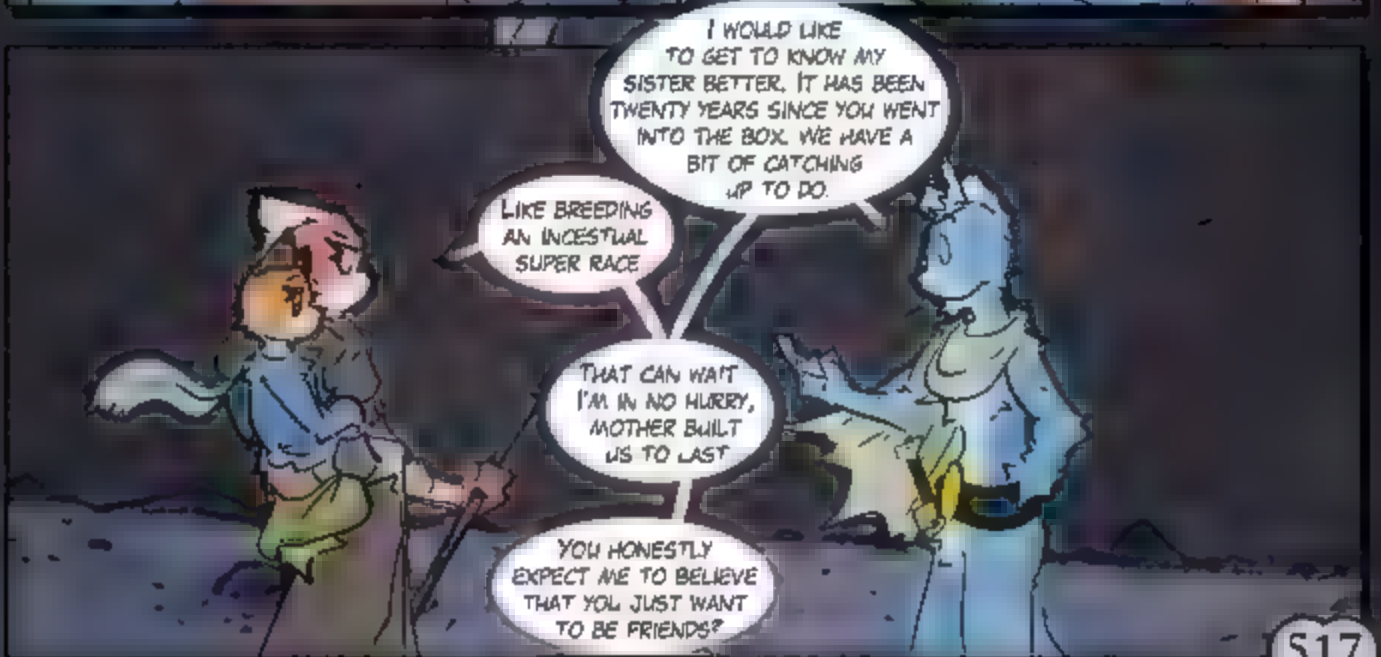
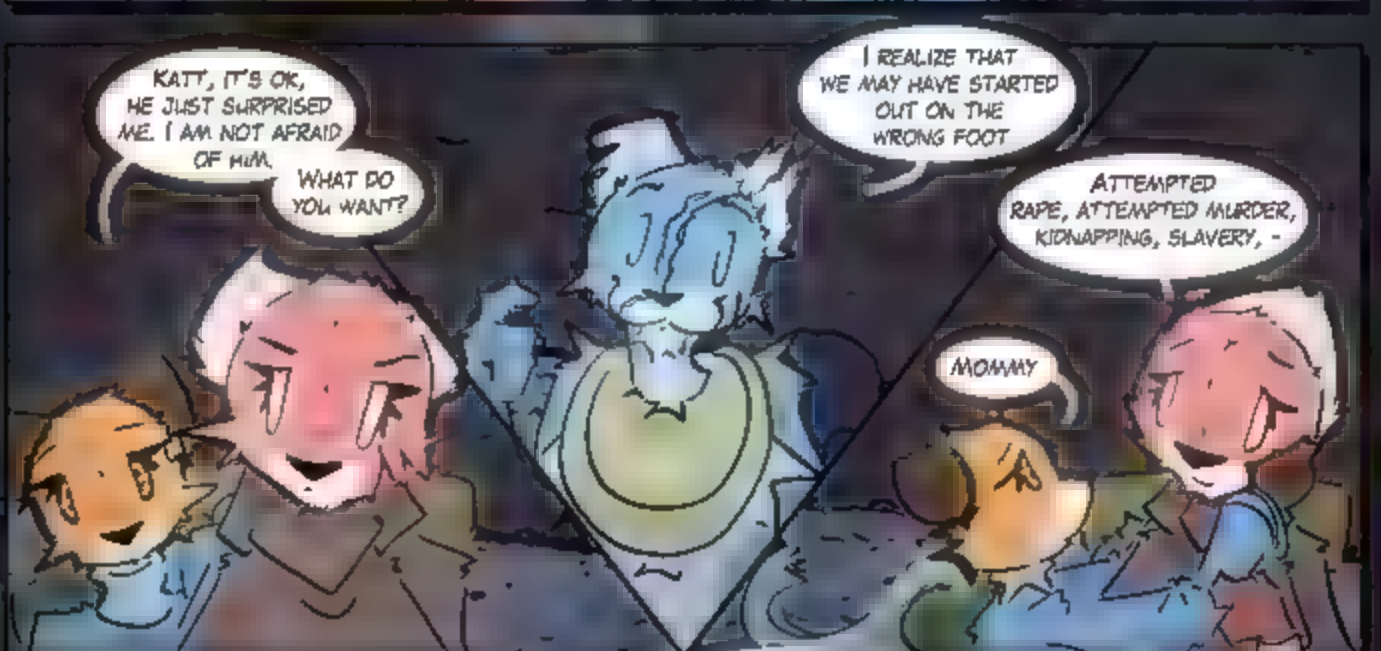


NOT YET
I HAVEN'T



KATT! KATT!

ALICE, ALICE
IT'S OK, I'M HERE
HONEY. I WON'T LET
HIM HURT YOU.



I HAVE A LOT
OF ANSWERS TO THE
QUESTIONS ROLLING AROUND
IN THAT PRETTY HEAD
OF YOURS.

MAYBE HE'S
TRYING TO
CHANGE.

I HIGHLY DOUBT
IT, IT'S PROBABLY A
LONG TERM PLAN TO LOWER
MY DEFENSES.

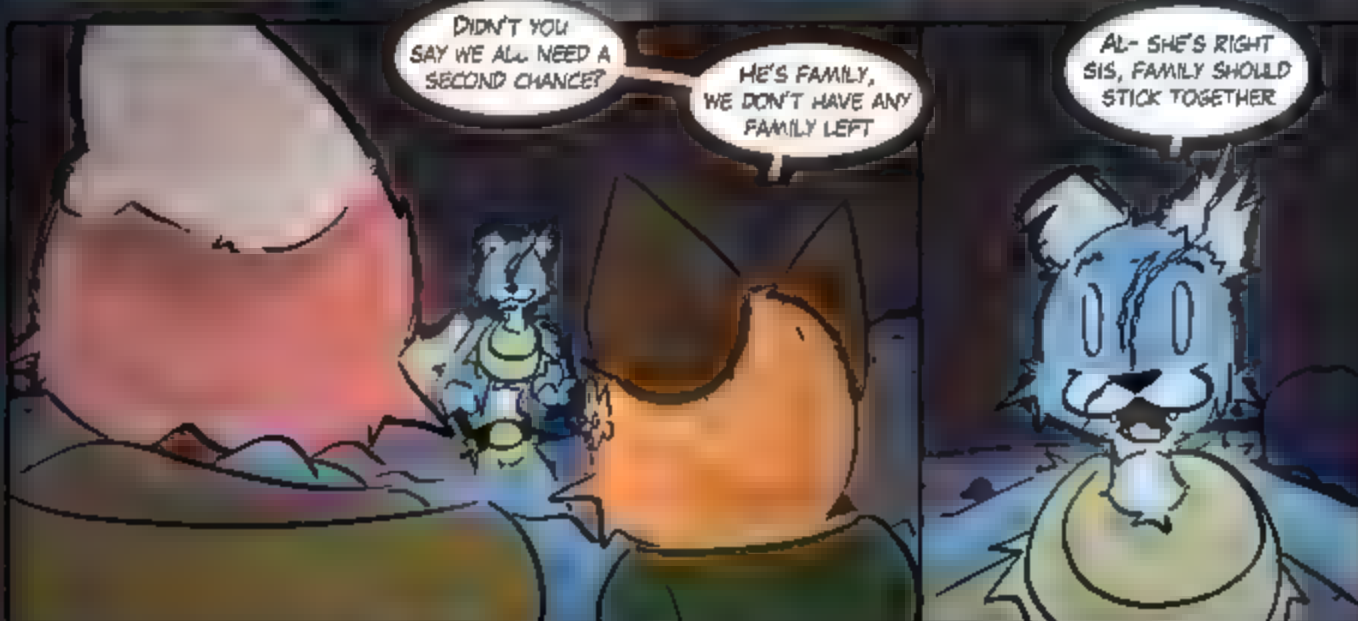
HE'S YOUR
BROTHER, MAYBE
WE CAN GIVE HIM A
SECOND CHANCE



DIDN'T YOU
SAY WE ALL NEED A
SECOND CHANCE?

HE'S FAMILY,
WE DON'T HAVE ANY
FAMILY LEFT

AL- SHE'S RIGHT
SIS, FAMILY SHOULD
STICK TOGETHER

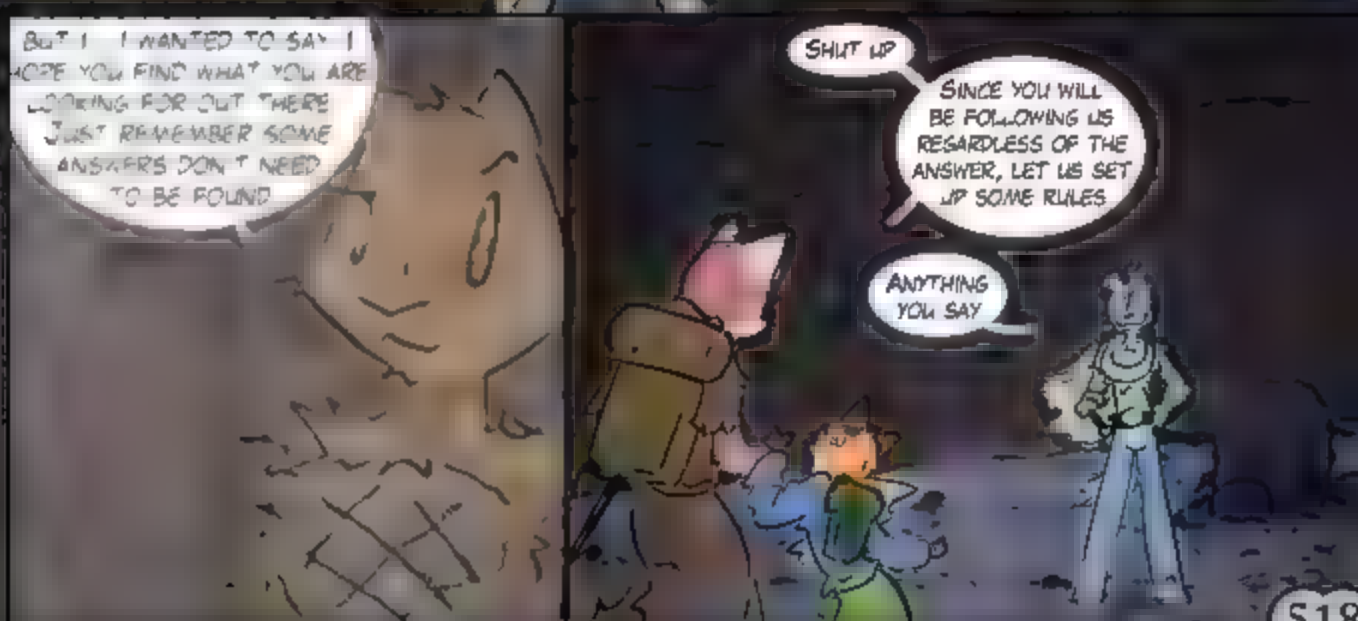


BUT I I WANTED TO SAY I
HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR OUT THERE
JUST REMEMBER SOME
ANSWERS DON'T NEED
TO BE FOUND

SHUT UP

SINCE YOU WILL
BE FOLLOWING US
REGARDLESS OF THE
ANSWER, LET US SET
UP SOME RULES

ANYTHING
YOU SAY

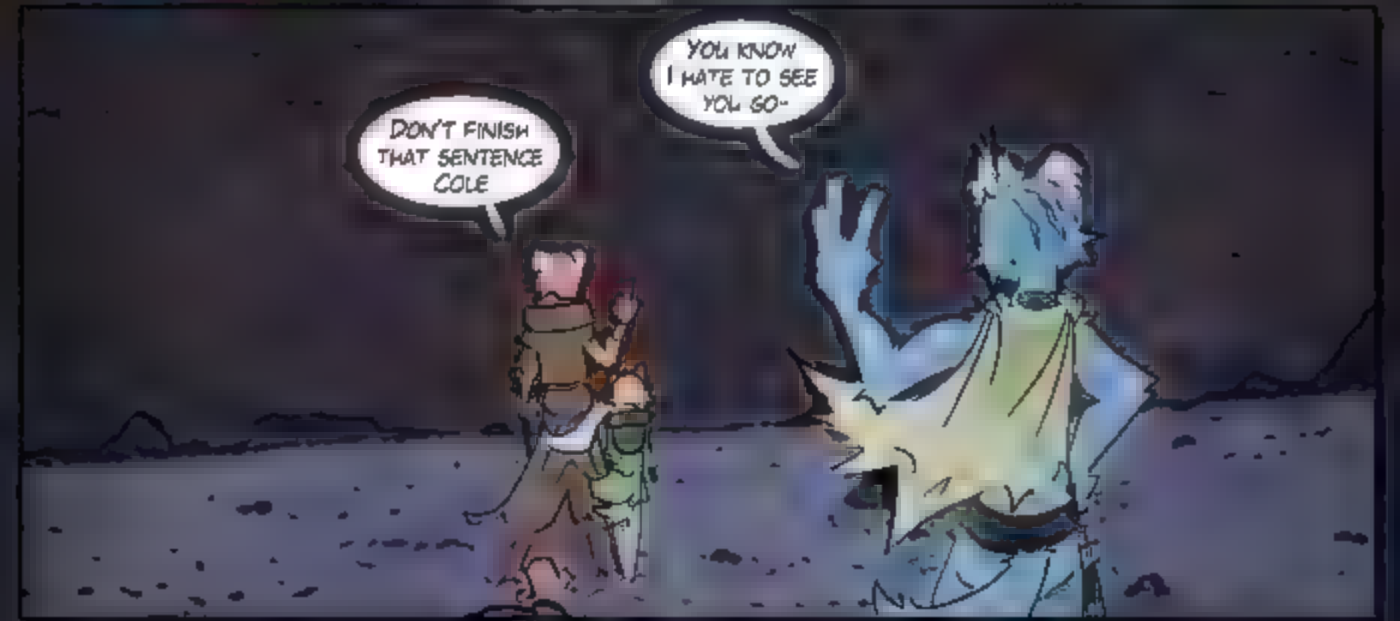




I DON'T WANT
YOU NEAR US, I DON'T
LIKE YOU, I DON'T TRUST YOU,
AND I KNOW AT THE FIRST CHANCE YOU
WILL BETRAY US. WE CANNOT FIGHT, YOU
KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. YOU DO NOT
TALK TO ALICE. YOU STAY A
HUNDRED YARDS FROM US
AT ALL TIMES.

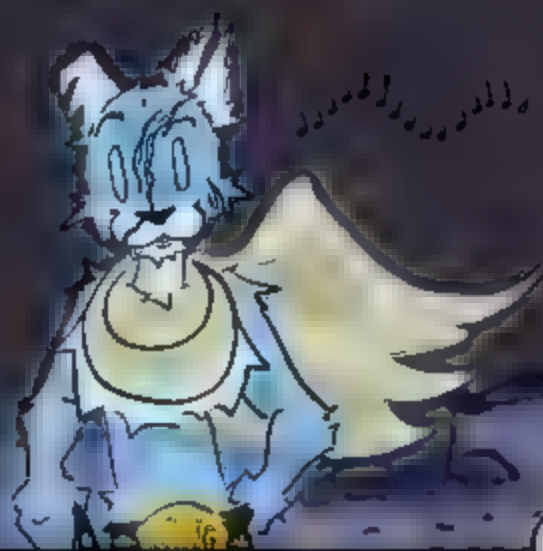
ONE HUNDRED YARDS?
BUT HOW WILL WE MAKE SWEET,
SWEET, CONVERSATION?

WE WON'T



DON'T FINISH
THAT SENTENCE
COLE

YOU KNOW
I HATE TO SEE
YOU GO-



WILL COLE
BE ALRIGHT OUT
THERE ALONE?

I'M SURE
HE CAN FEND FOR
HIMSELF

MR. FLUFFY
PANTS WAS TALKING
TO ME AT THE
SLAVE FARM.

BUT NOW
HE IS QUIET
AGAIN.

WHAT DID
MR. FLUFFY PANTS
HAVE TO SAY?

HE WAS
NOT VERY NICE.
HE...

HE SAID
YOU TRIED TO
KILL HIM.

DID HE NOW?
WHAT ELSE DID MR.
FLUFFY PANTS SAY?

HE ALSO SAID
YOU WOULD NOT COME
FOR ME. I CALLED
HIM A LIAR.

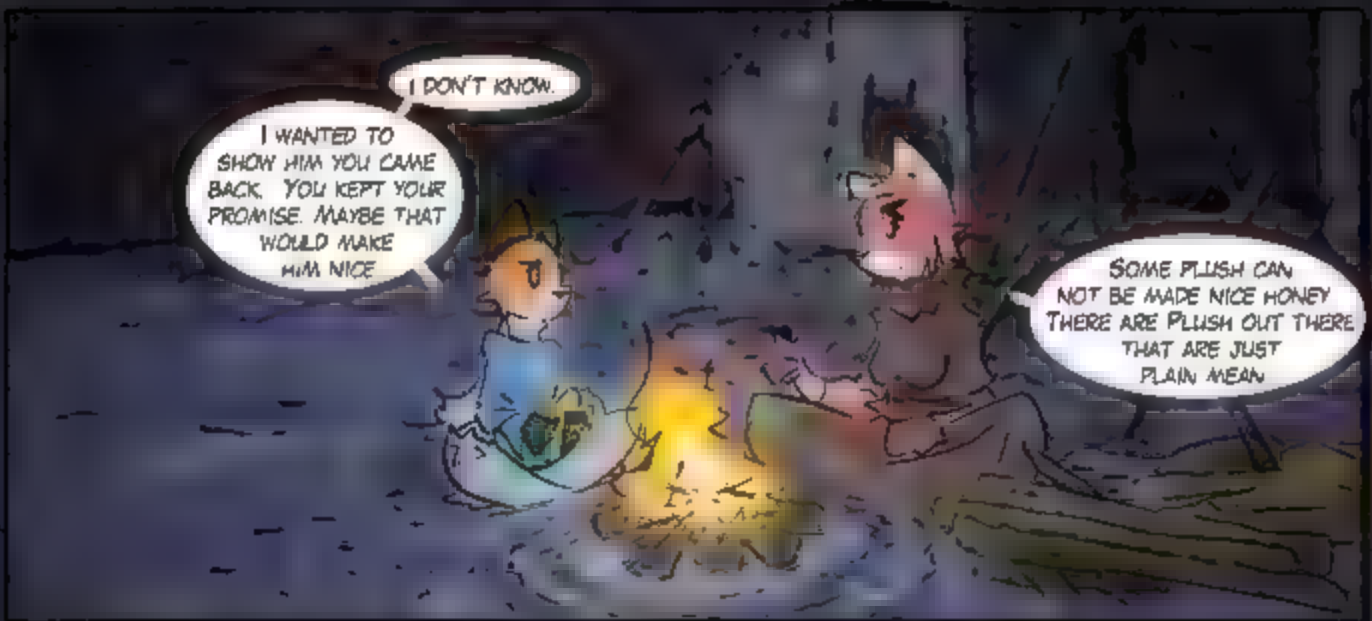
I THINK HE'S
MAD AT ME

I DIDN'T WANT
TO BE MAD AT HIM, BUT
HE KEPT SAYING YOU
WERE NOT COMING.

IT SEEMS MR.
FLUFFY PANTS IS BEING
A LITTLE SELFISH.

BUT YOU PROMISED,
AND I TOLD HIM THAT, AND
HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME. SO I
YELLED AT HIM AND NOW HE
WON'T TALK TO ME

WHAT DID YOU
WANT TO TALK TO
HIM ABOUT?



I WANTED TO
SHOW HIM YOU CAME
BACK. YOU KEPT YOUR
PROMISE. MAYBE THAT
WOULD MAKE
HIM NICE

I DON'T KNOW.

SOME PLUSH CAN
NOT BE MADE NICE HONEY
THERE ARE PLUSH OUT THERE
THAT ARE JUST
PLAIN MEAN



IS COLE ONE OF
THOSE PLUSH?



OF COURSE NOT.
YOU JUST HAVE TO GET
TO KNOW ME



I WAS ABOUT
TO SAY THERE ARE
MEAN PLUSH, AND THEN
THERE ARE A SPECIAL BREED
OF BATSHIT MEGALOMANIACAL
INCESTUOUS CLOWNS
OUT THERE



CLOWN?
I TAKE OFFENSE
TO THAT

YOUR FIRE IS
DOING VERY WELL AT
ADVERTISING YOUR
POSITION.

THIS IS ROUGH COUNTRY,
ALL KINDS OF MEAN PLUSH
LURKING ABOUT OUT THERE.
I GOT THESE TWO EASY, BUT
I WILL BE UP ALL NIGHT IF
YOU KEEP THAT FIRE UP

OH MY
REALLY? I WOULD
HAVE NEVER THOUGHT A LONE
FIRE IN A WASTELAND FILLED WITH
SCAVENGERS AND PARASITES
WOULD ATTRACT
ATTENTION.

THANKS SIS.

I WARNED YOU
ABOUT SIS.

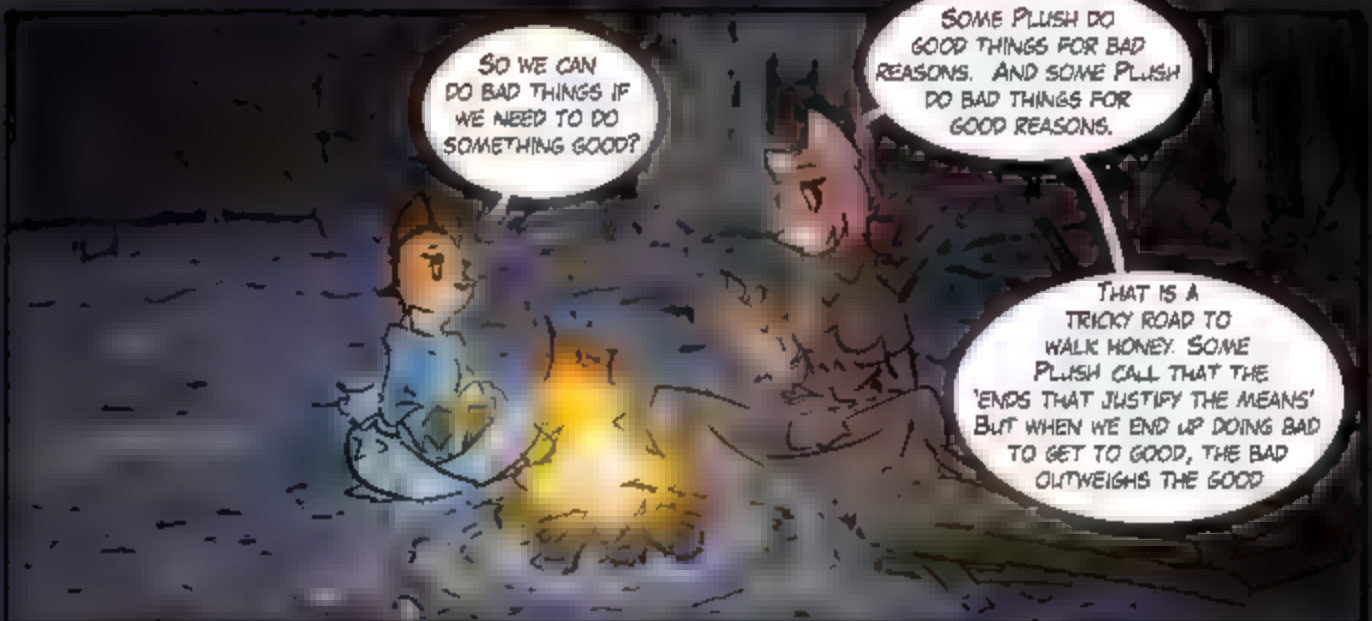
WON'T THE MEAN
MEN COME IF THEY
SEE THE FIRE?

COLE CAN
HANDLE THEM.

MEANWHILE
WE CAN GET A NICE
TOASTY REST

IF COLE STOPS
ALL THE MEAN PLUSH,
DOES THAT MAKE
HIM GOOD?

ALWAYS WITH
THE TOUGH
QUESTIONS.



SO WE CAN
DO BAD THINGS IF
WE NEED TO DO
SOMETHING GOOD?

SOME PLUSH DO
GOOD THINGS FOR BAD
REASONS. AND SOME PLUSH
DO BAD THINGS FOR
GOOD REASONS.

THAT IS A
TRICKY ROAD TO
WALK HONEY. SOME
PLUSH CALL THAT THE
'ENDS THAT JUSTIFY THE MEANS'
BUT WHEN WE END UP DOING BAD
TO GET TO GOOD, THE BAD
OUTWEIGHS THE GOOD

OH.

IS THAT BECAUSE
GOOD IS HARDER TO DO
THAN BAD? AND SOMETIMES
WE WANT GOOD SO BAD THAT
WE WANT TO MAKE
IT EASY?

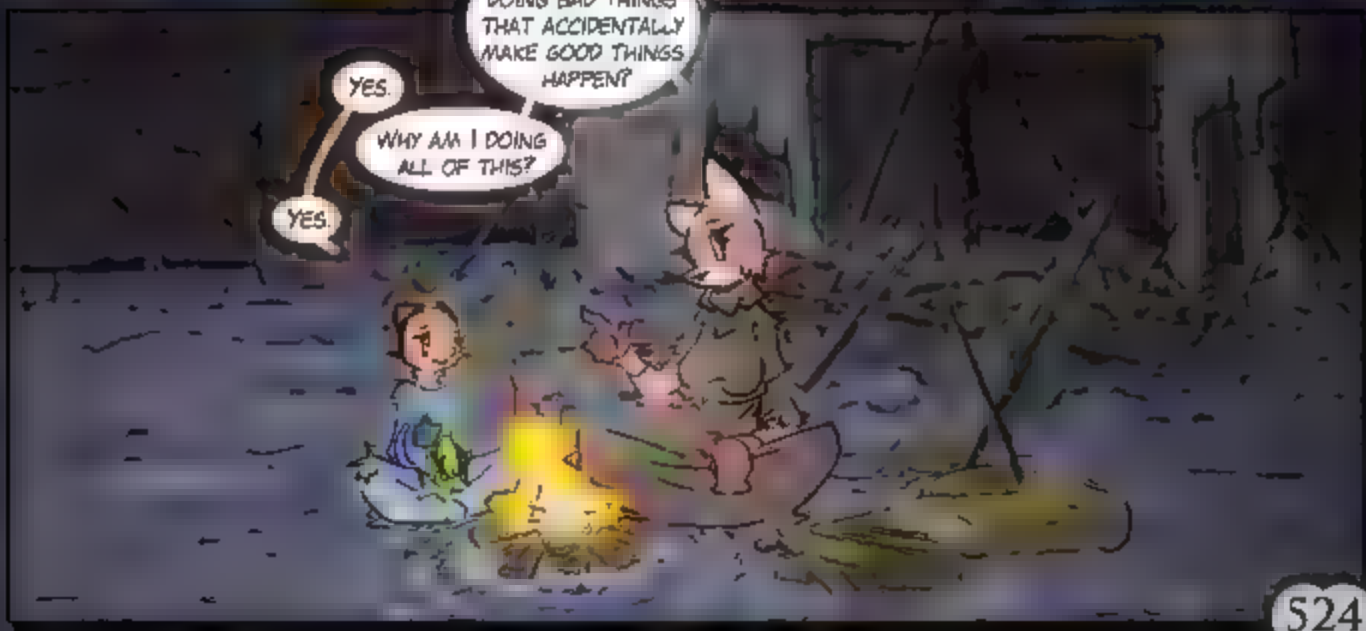
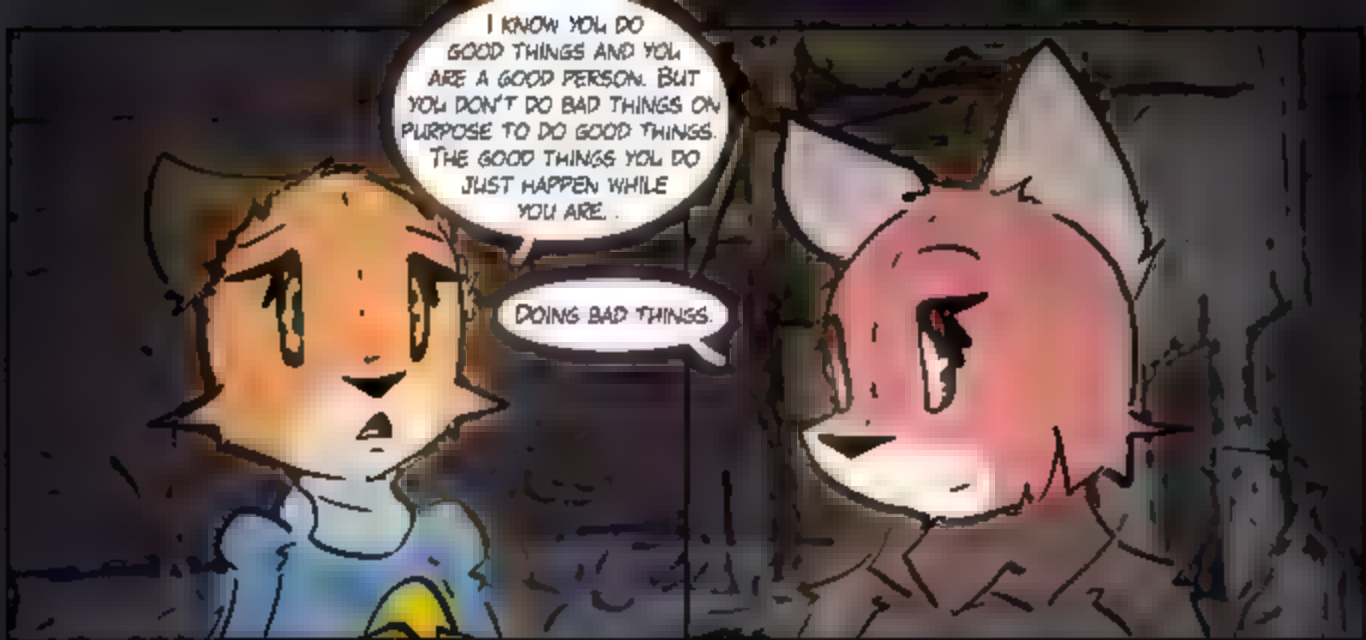
YOU ARE AN
AMAZING CHILD. YOU
HAVE JUST FIGURED OUT
WHAT TAKES MOST PLUSH
THEIR ENTIRE LIVES
TO LEARN.

SO...

PLEASE DON'T
BE MAD

MORE
EPIPHANIES?

ALICE HONEY I
COULD NEVER BE MAD
AT YOU. WHAT IS
IT HONEY?

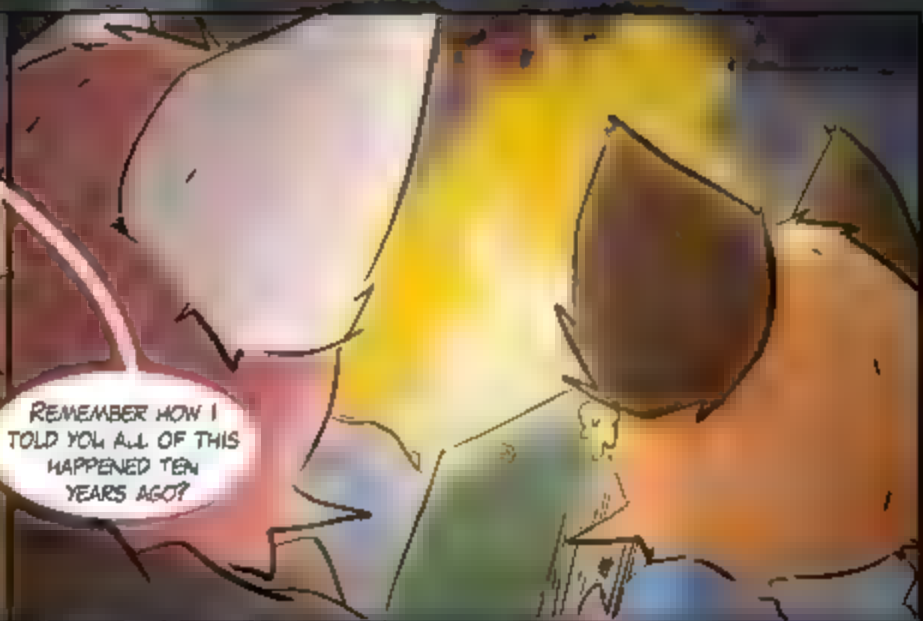




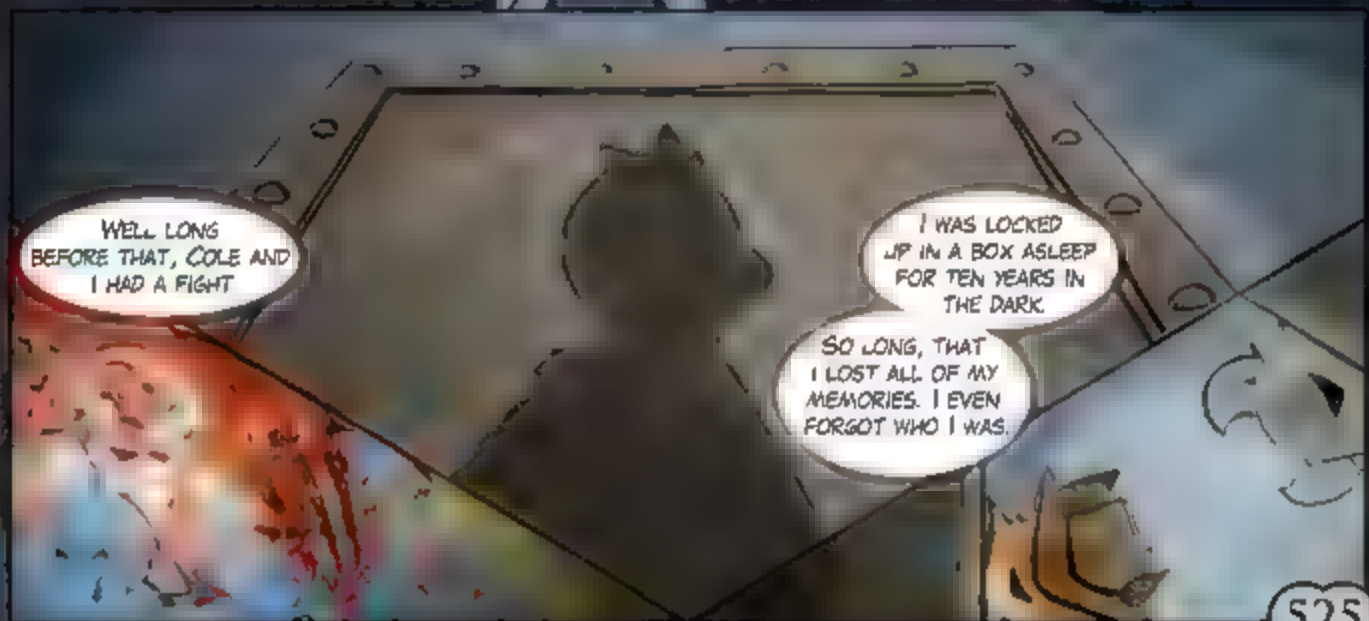
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO TELL IF YOU DON'T
WANT TO



NO, ITS OK
ALICE, YOU DESERVE
TO KNOW



REMEMBER HOW I
TOLD YOU ALL OF THIS
HAPPENED TEN
YEARS AGO?



WELL LONG
BEFORE THAT, COLE AND
I HAD A FIGHT

I WAS LOCKED
UP IN A BOX ASLEEP
FOR TEN YEARS IN
THE DARK.

SO LONG, THAT
I LOST ALL OF MY
MEMORIES. I EVEN
FORGOT WHO I WAS.

BUT YOU
ARE KATT.

TWO MEN FREED
ME FROM MY PRISON.
I COULD NOT REMEMBER
ANYTHING. THEY NAMED
ME KATT AND HELPED
ME ESCAPE.

BUT WHEN I
ESCAPED THIS
HAPPENED

ALL HOPE OF
LEARNING WHO I WAS
AND WHO I HAD BEEN
WAS LOST

OH NO!

BUT ONE OF
THE MEN WHO FREED
ME TOLD ME ABOUT A PLACE
WHERE ALL THE INFORMATION
IN THE WORLD
WAS STORED.

HE DID NOT
KNOW WHERE IT WAS,
BUT HE KNEW A FEW
PEOPLE THAT MAY BE
ABLE TO FIND IT

WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE MAN?

I DON'T KNOW
HONEY, HE JUST
DISAPPEARED. I WENT
ON SEARCHING FOR THIS
PLACE, THE PLACE THAT
COULD TELL ME
WHO I WAS.

A FEW WEEKS
BEFORE I MET YOU,
SALLY AND I.

WHO'S SALLY?

SALLY...

18.



KATT, YOU HURRY
TO MUCH. LETS SAY GOODBYE
TO THIS TOWN AND GO FIND
SOME ANSWERS



WAS A GOOD
FRIEND OF MINE.



LIKE FRIAR PEKIN?

SORT OF

CAN I MEET HER?

SHE.

KATTY

OH NO!
I'M SORRY KATT

SHE WAS
KILLED BY
A SLAVER.

IT'S OK MONEY
SHE HELPED ME
FIND THIS.

IT IS THE
LOCATION OF THE
PLACE I HAVE BEEN
SEARCHING FOR.

IS THAT
WHERE WE ARE
GOING NOW?

NOT YET
I NEED TO FIND
A MAN THAT KNOWS HOW
TO READ THESE. THEY ARE
ALL IN CODE.

ONCE WE FIND
HIM AND GET OUR
ANSWERS WE
CAN GO

THAT IS WHERE
ALL OF MY DEEDS,
GOOD AND BAD
ARE LEADING.

DO.

DO THE ENDS
JUSTIFY THE
MEANS?

I BELIEVE IN YOU KATT. IF I LOST MY MEMORIES I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET THEM BACK.

I AM [REDACTED] TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH BECAUSE I WILL NEVER LIE TO YOU.

TO ME THE ENDS DO JUSTIFY THE MEANS.

THE REST OF THE WORLD MAY NOT SEE IT THAT WAY.

THANK YOU ALICE MONEY.

WHAT ABOUT COLE?

HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT YOU, HE SAID SO. YOU COULD ASK HIM.

HOW MUCH DO YOU UNDERSTAND ABOUT WHAT HE SAID BACK AT TOWN?

A LITTLE, I WAS SCARED AND DIDN'T HEAR A LOT OF IT AND SOME STUFF DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

I DO NOT WANT TO ASK COLE BECAUSE HE WANTS SOMETHING FROM ME THAT I WILL NOT GIVE HIM.

EVEN A SMALL QUESTION WOULD GIVE HIM THAT MUCH MORE POWER OVER ME. DO NOT BE FOOLED BY HIS HAPPY IDIOT ROUTINE.

HE IS A VERY INTELLIGENT, MAD, SELFISH, PLUSH. ALL THAT MATTERS TO HIM IS WHAT HE WANTS.

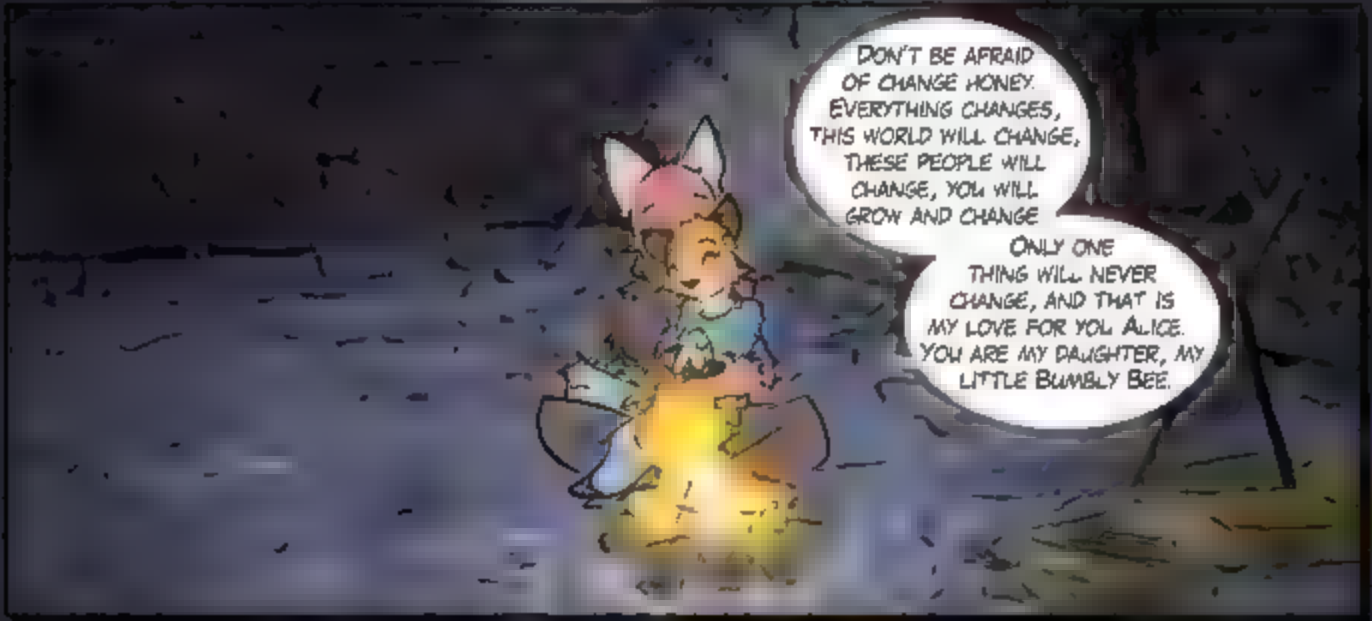
OK.

WILL YOU STILL BE MY MOMMY AFTER YOU FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE?



WHAT?
OH ALICE HONEY,
OF COURSE I WILL. DO
YOU NOT WANT ME
AS A MOTHER?

NO, NO!
I WANT YOU TO
BE MY MOMMY
FOREVER, BUT..



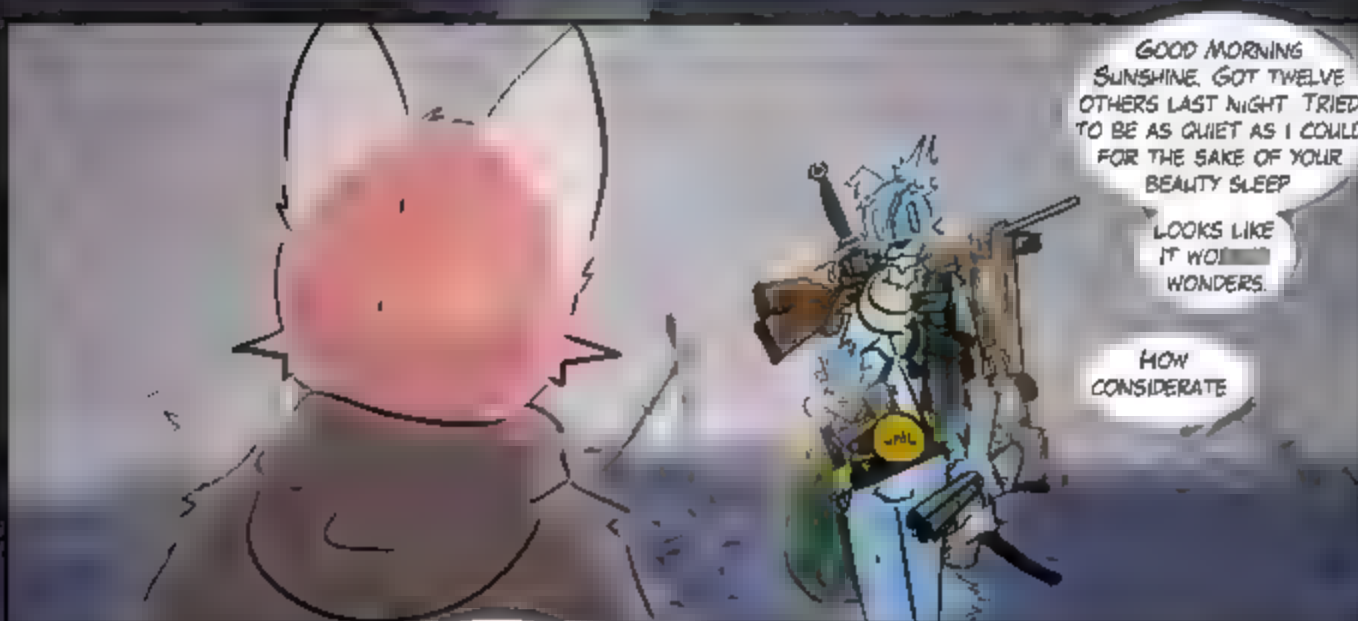
DON'T BE AFRAID
OF CHANGE HONEY.
EVERYTHING CHANGES,
THIS WORLD WILL CHANGE,
THESE PEOPLE WILL
CHANGE, YOU WILL
GROW AND CHANGE

ONLY ONE
THING WILL NEVER
CHANGE, AND THAT IS
MY LOVE FOR YOU ALICE.
YOU ARE MY DAUGHTER, MY
LITTLE BUMBLE BEE.



I LOVE
YOU MOMMY

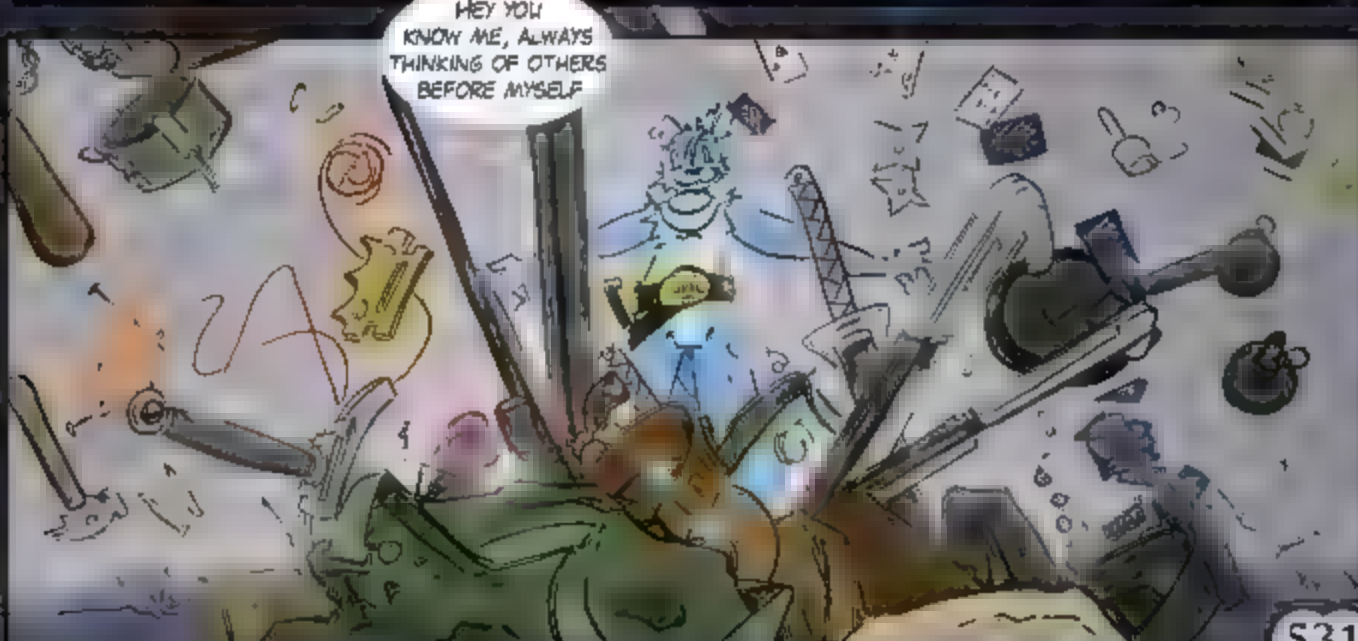
I LOVE YOU
TOO ALICE



GOOD MORNING
SUNSHINE. GOT TWELVE
OTHERS LAST NIGHT TRIED
TO BE AS QUIET AS I COULD
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR
BEAUTY SLEEP

LOOKS LIKE
IT WOUL
WONDERS.

HOW
CONSIDERATE



HEY YOU
KNOW ME, ALWAYS
THINKING OF OTHERS
BEFORE MYSELF

TELL ME ABOUT
YOURSELF MY DEAR SISTER.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO
THE LAST TEN YEARS?



SIGHT SEEING.



MUST HAVE TAKEN
YOU A WHILE TO REALIZE
THE BLAST WAS THE GREAT
EQUALIZER. GRAY, GRAY,
AND MORE GRAY.



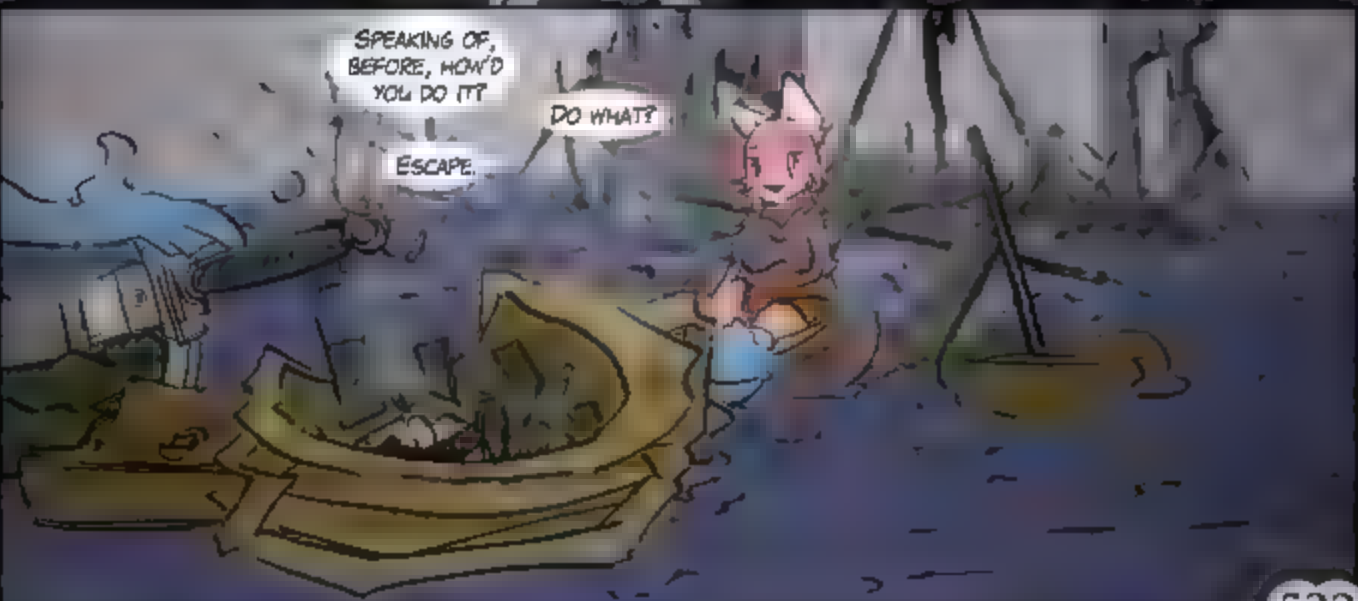
I'M QUITE
PARTIAL TO GREY
MYSELF.



SPEAKING OF,
BEFORE, HOW'D
YOU DO IT?

DO WHAT?

ESCAPE.





CARVED A BAR
OF SOAP INTO A
KEY AND LET
MYSELF OUT



THEN SPLIT A
SOAP ATOM AND BLEN
UP THE BEAN'S ALPHA
PROCESSING CENTER?



I HAD HEARD,
THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE,
YOU HAD AN EXTRA PAIR
OF HANDS HELPING
YOU OUT



I WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE WITH THE ARMY
WHEN IT RETURNED TO UTOPIA
IN ORDER TO APPREHEND A
CERTAIN PAIR OF...
DEVILS.



BULLSHIT I WAS
UNDERCOVER ON A
SECRET MATTRESS
TESTING MISSION.



I CAN TELL
YOU ONE THING
THOUGH, NORMALLY
MY CP'S SAY I SHAKE THE
EARTH, BUT YOU, YOU TURNED
MY WHOLE WORLD UPSIDE
DOWN SISTER.

GO TO
HELL COLE

YAAAAWWWWWWWW

GOOD MORNING.

SORRY SIS,
THEY WON'T
LET US IN.

GOOD MORNING.

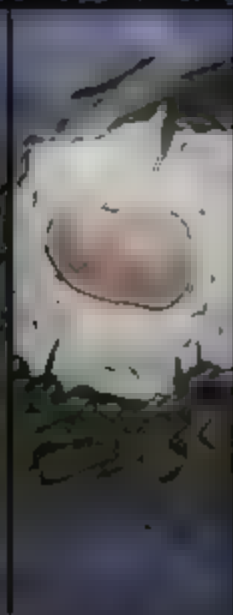
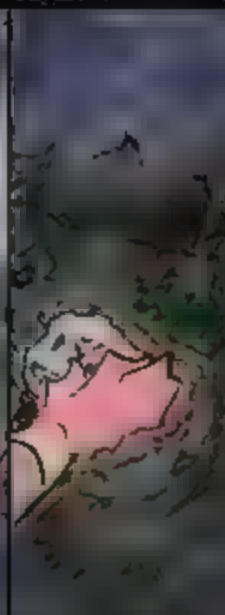
HOW ABOUT
SOME BREAKFAST

SALERIKRAUT
AND BEATS, HAAAA,
SLIM PICKENS.

LAST OF
KUGU'S BREAD

WHAT, NO LOVE?

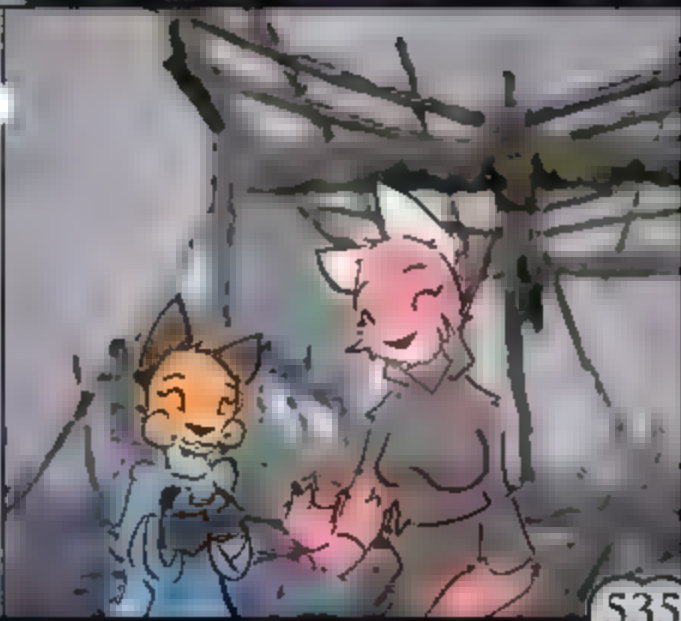
MUCH OBLIGED



CAREFUL
IT'S HOT



ALWAYS A
CRAFTY ONE SIS.

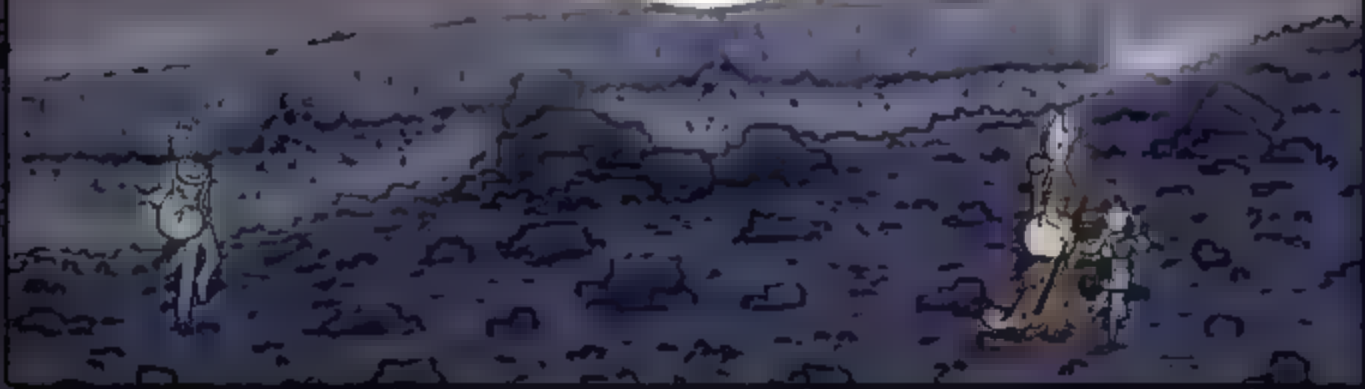


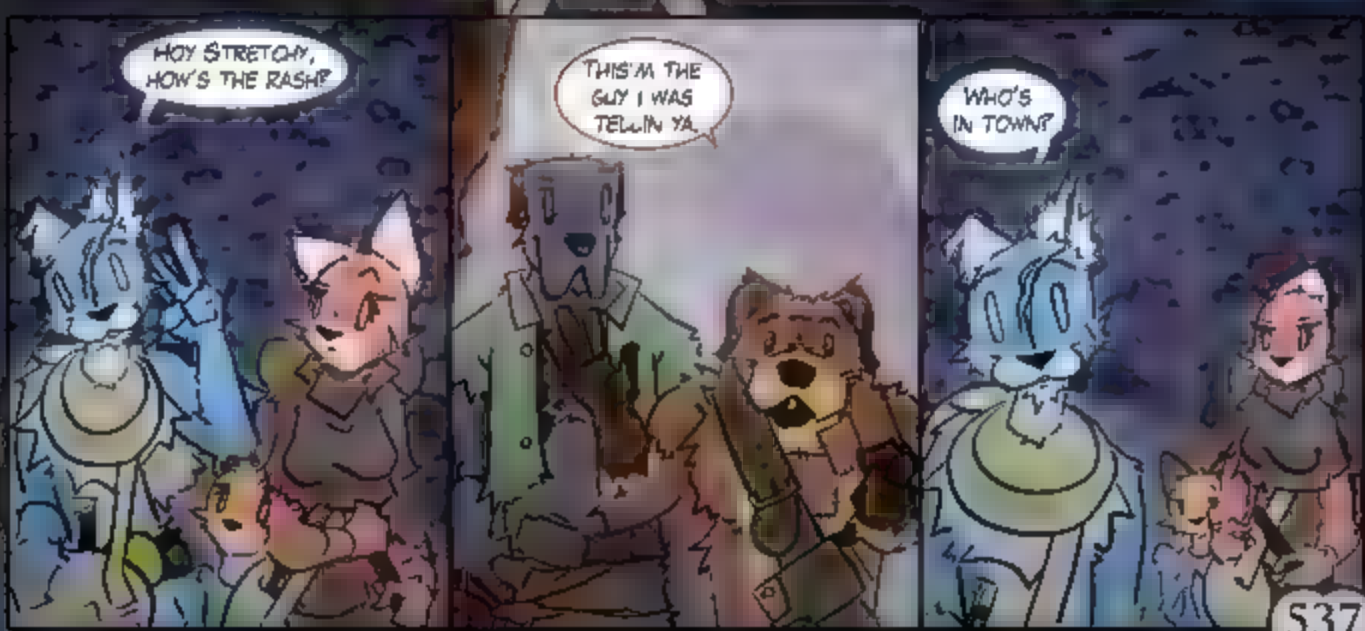
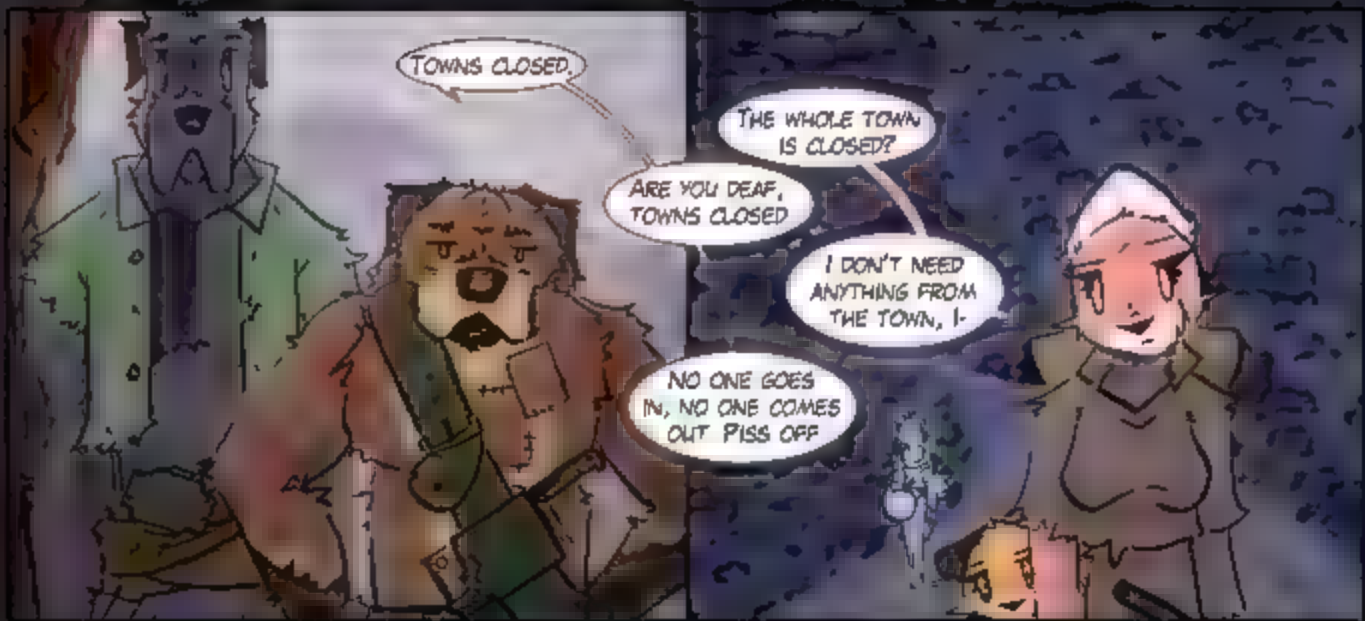
HE HAS NOT
SAID MUCH IN THE LAST
FEW DAYS, DO YOU THINK
HE IS MAD?

NO

HE HASN'T
DONE ANYTHING
BAD TO US..

HE HASN'T
DONE ENOUGH GOOD
TO MAKE UP FOR HIS
PREVIOUS BAD.





SHIT, GOT
BIG MARLE, FORD,
CRAZY ALAN, AND BARY
THE BENIGN. BIG FUCKIN
MALLETS HEADS THE
LOT OF THEM.

CREWS
AND ALL?

YA, SOMETHING
GOING DOWN. RUMORS
WERE YOUS GOT KILLED
DOWN SOUTH.

STRETCHY HOW
MANY RUMORS ABOUT
ME HAVE YOU HEARD
OVER THE YEARS?

TOO
MANY COLE.

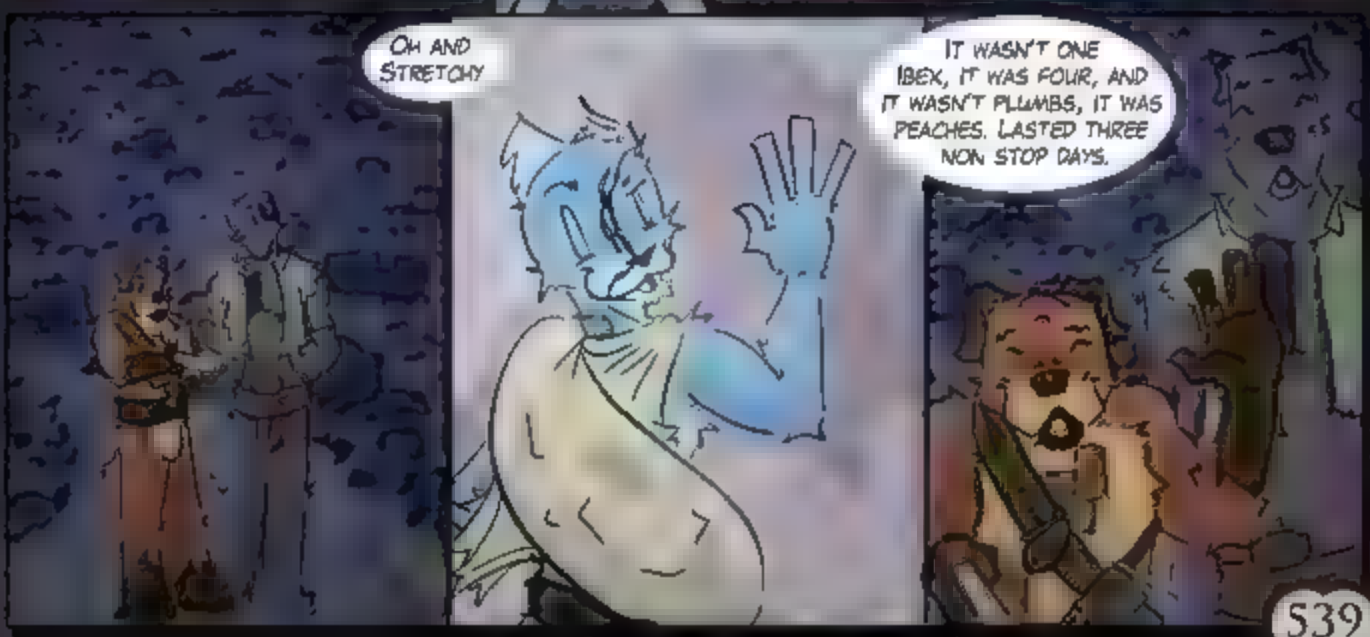
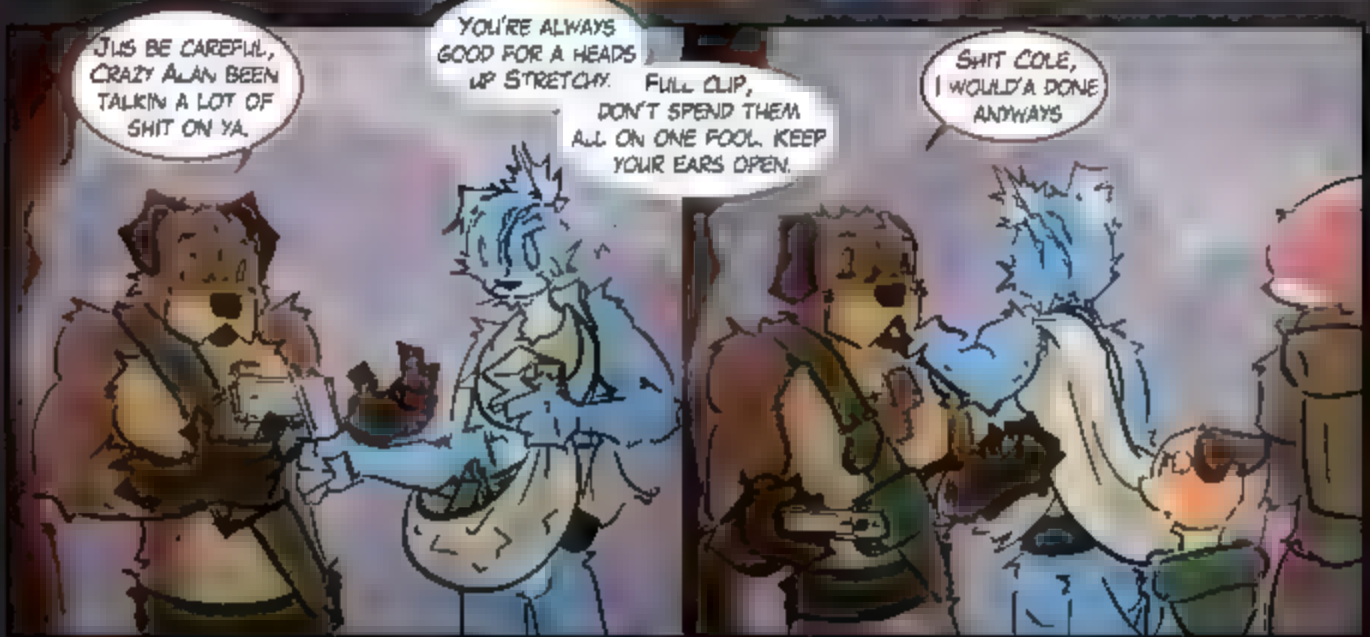
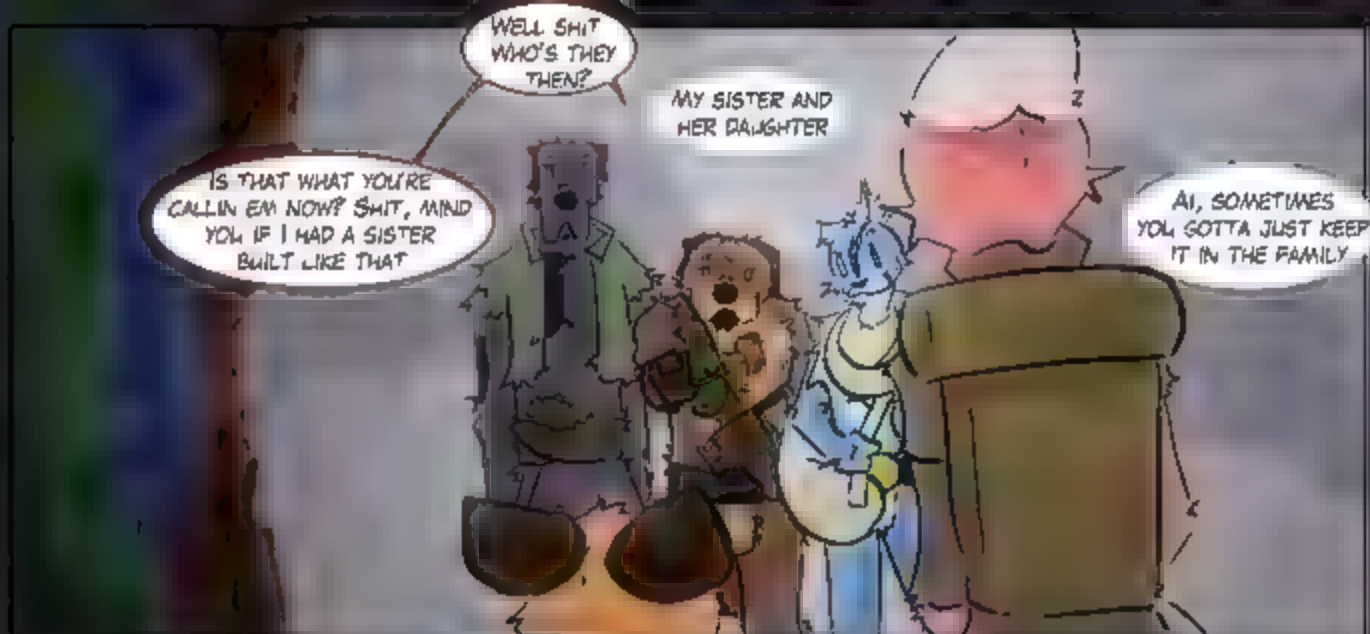
HOW MANY
WERE TRUE?

SHIT COLE
NONE, BUT YOU KNOW
THAT ONE ABOUT THE IBEX
AND THE PLUMBS.

YEAH.

S KINDA HOPIN
THAT HAD A RUN OF
TRUTH TO IT

SORRY TO
DISAPPOINT
BROTHER



ARE YOU GUYS
DONE JERKING EACH
OTHER OFF?

DAMN THOSE
IBEX WERE FINE, LITHE
TIGHT, JUST BUILT
RIGHT. MHH.

WHAT DID YOU
WANT IN THIS SHITHOLE
ANYWAY?

LOOKING
FOR SOMEONE

COLE, HEY BABY
COME TO MAMA!

COLE BRO!

WHOP
I KNOW EVERYONE IN
TOWN. MY TRACKS RUN
RIGHT THROUGH THE
EAST END OF TOWN.

HE WENT BY
PERTWEE WHEN I
KNEW HIM, BUT THAT
WAS ABOUT FIVE
YEARS AGO

PERTWEE?
YOU MEAN PEWEE?
PURPLE RABBIT WITH A
MISSING EAR? USED TO
BE A LEUTENANT?

THAT'S HIM.

SWEEPS UP
THE LIBERTY BELL
AT THE OTHER END
OF TOWN. KIND
OF A-

I KNOW
THE PLACE

HOW THE HELL
DID WE MISS EACH OTHER
ALL THESE YEARS?

I HAD NO
INTEREST IN
MEETING ANYONE.
LET ALONE YOU.

HOW THE
HELL DO YOU
KNOW PEWEE?

HE REPORTED
TO THE MAN I
NEED TO FIND

YOU LOOKIN'
FOR BURT?!

DO YOU KNOW
WHERE HE IS?

SHIT,
NO ONE DOES.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR
THAT SON OF A BITCH FOR YEARS.
FOUND OUT HE IS THE LAST LIVING
BEING WITH ALL THE CODES TO
THE BC'S DEEP A
RMORY CACHES.

PERTWEE
KNOWS.

YOU'RE
SHITTING ME.

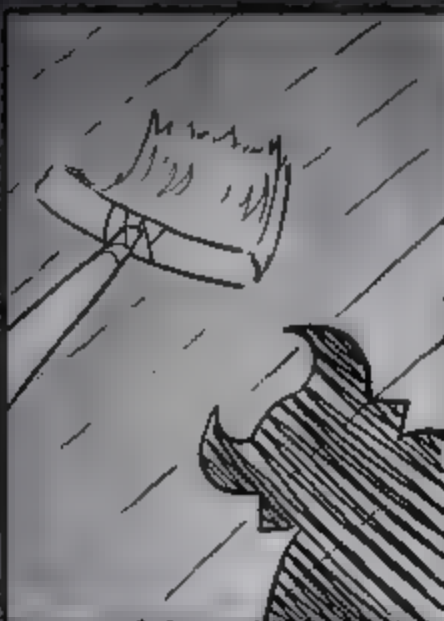
FIVE YEARS
AGO, BURT TELLS
ME SOMEONE IS AFTER
HIM. I CAN ONLY PRESUME
NOW THAT IT
WAS YOU.

HE TELLS ME
THAT THE ONLY WAY
TO HIDE FROM THIS
PERSON, YOU,
IS TO DIE.

NEXT DAY,
HE'S GONE, DISAPPEARS
OFF THE FACE OF THE
PLANET I FIND OUT LATER
HE IS USING PERTWEE
TO DELIVER SUPPLIES
TO HIM SOMEWHERE
ONCE A YEAR.

YOU CONTINUE
TO AMAZE ME SIS.
IT IS TRULY A
SMALL WORLD.

THAT IS AN
UNDERSTATEMENT



DON'T KILL
ME KATT! IT WASN'T
MY FAULT

C-C-COLET?
DID I DIE, AM I
IN HELL?

WHAP!
THUD!

MAIL TO THE
KING
BABY

OH WEAVER,
PLEASE DON'T KILL
ME. WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

SHUT UP
PERTWEE,
WHERE'S BURTT

B-B-BURTT

DON'T PLAY
DUMB PEWEE. KATT
HERE SAYS YOU KNOW WHERE
HE IS. I AM QUITE DISAPPOINTED
THAT YOU DIDN'T COME FORWARD
WITH THIS INFORMATION
WHEN I WAS ASKING
ABOUT IT

KATT... KATT'S
THE ONLY ONE THAT
KNEW THAT I KNEW I'M ABOUT
TO SHIT MYSELF WITH BOTH OF
YOU STANDING HERE. HOW
DID YOU TWO FIND
EACH OTHER?

SHE'S MY SISTER.

HOW THE FUCK
DID I GET STUCK BETWEEN
THE ONLY TWO PLUSH ON THIS
PLANET THAT MAKE JUDGMENT
DAY LOOK TAME.

UNLUCKY I GUESS.

WHERE'S BURTT

IF I TELL
YOU, WILL YOU
LET ME GO?

IF YOU
DON'T...

OK, OK.
A WEEK WEST
UNTIL YOU COME TO
THE RIFT AND ANOTHER
FOUR DAYS NORTH UNTIL
YOU COME TO
THE TOWER.

THE RIFT?
ARE YOU SERIOUS,
THAT PLACE STILL HAS
TO BE HOT

THE RADIATION
HAS BEEN BURIED BY
ALL THE MOLTEN ROCK
POURING OUT OF THAT
RIFT. YOU'D NEED TO SPEND
A BIT OF TIME THERE TO
SOAK UP ENOUGH
TO HARM YOU.

HOW DOES
BURT RATE?

THE TOWER.

THERE'S NOTHING
LEFT STANDING OUT THERE
WHAT TOWER?

I'VE BEEN
OUT THERE A FEW
TIMES. IT'S A GIANT
ROCK SPIRE, I DON'T
KNOW HOW IT
GOT THERE.

SOUNDS
LIKE A STRETCH.

COLE WOULD
I LIE TO YOU?
EITHER OF YOU?

PROBABLY NOT
LIE, BUT IT SEEMS
YOU'RE PRONE TO LEAVE
THE TRUTH OUT OF
YOUR ANSWERS.

LOOK I'M TELLIN'
YA, IT'S THERE BURT'S
THE ONLY CRAZY BASTARD
WILLING TO LIVE THAT CLOSE
TO THE RIFT. I'M TELLIN'
YOU THE TRUTH.

I'M NOT
LYING!

ELEVEN DAYS
OUT AND ELEVEN
BACK, GIVES YOU A HELL
OF A HEAD START
IF YOU'RE LYING.

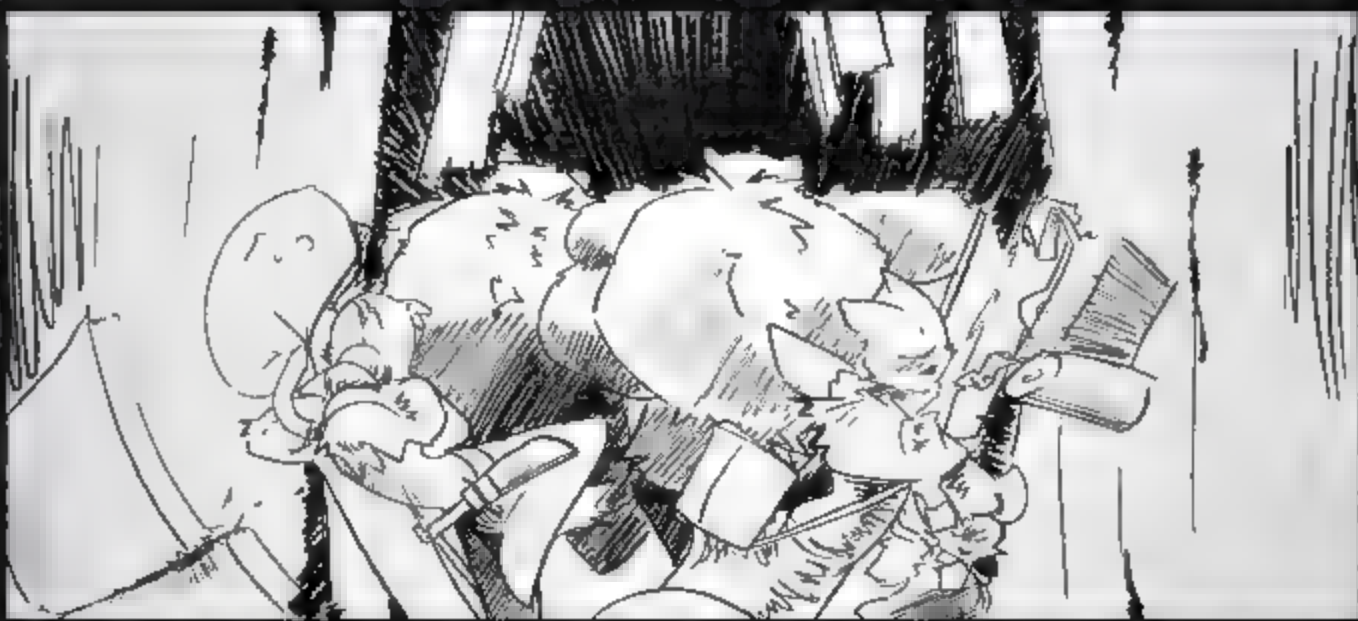
I CAN'T
CHASE YOU EVEN
IF YOU ARE.

BUT I CAN.

SHIT LOOK,
HE'S ONLY UP THERE
BECAUSE YOU WERE LOOKING
FOR HIM. NO ONE WOULD DREAM
OF LOOKING FOR HIM THAT NEAR
THE RIFT. IT WILL BE ANOTHER
TWENTY YEARS BEFORE PLUSH
THINK IT'S SAFE ENOUGH
TO SEARCH.

HE'S GOT
A POINT

COLE!



YOU DEAD!

BARV I AM
HURT THAT YOU
WOULD BELIEVE
SUCH RUMORS

NO RUMOR...
I KILL!

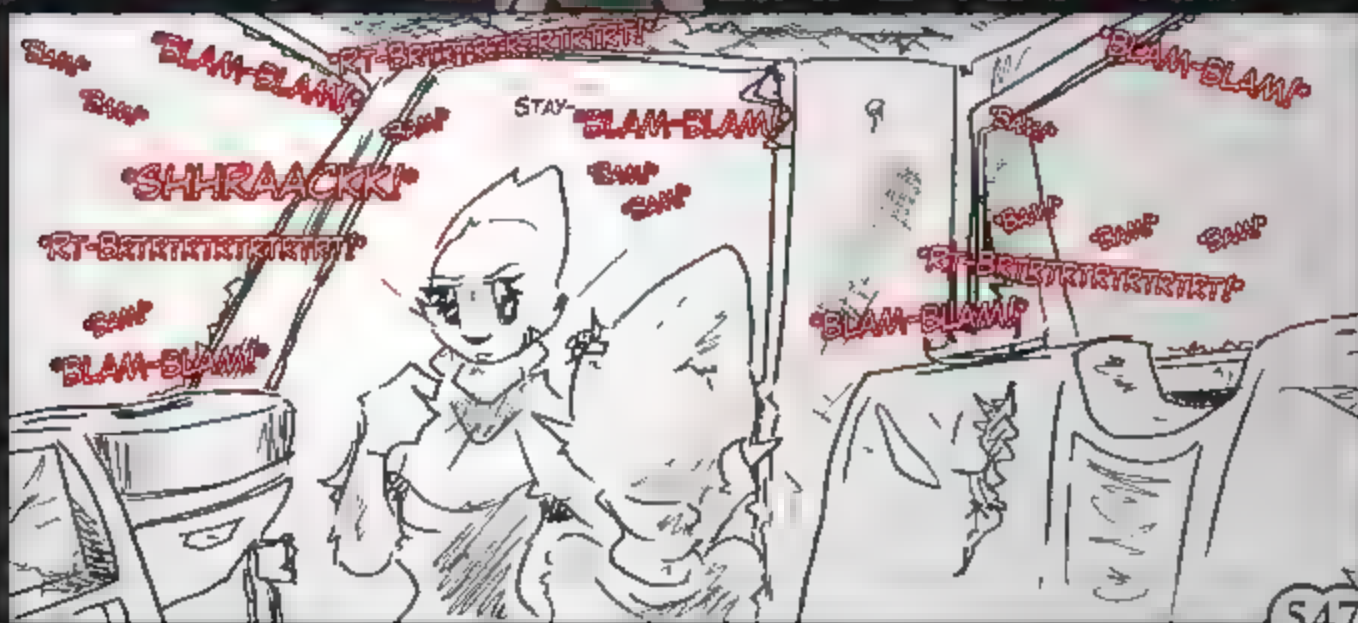
I DON'T KNOW BARV,
LAST TIME YOU TRIED YOU
LOST YOUR TUSKS AND
YOUR MEN.

THIS TIME
I CRACK LITTLE
FORT!

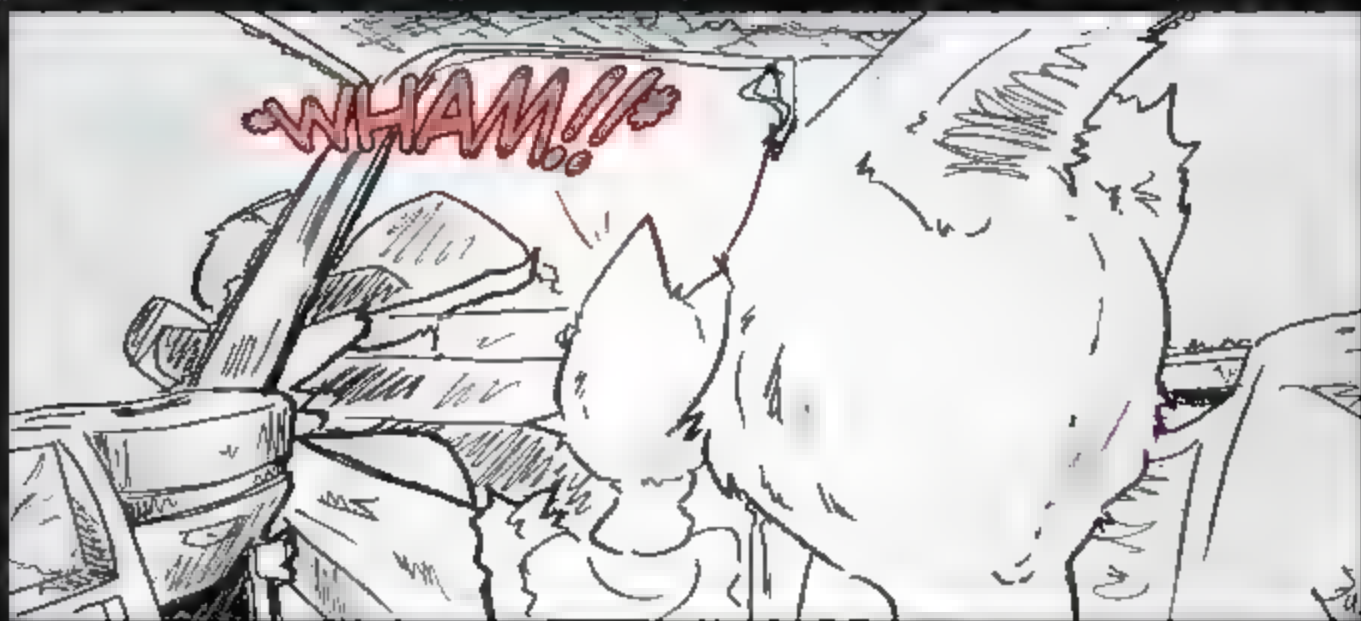


OH GOODY!

YOU BEST TAKE THE
FIRST SHOT BARV BECAUSE
YOU'LL NEVER PULL THAT TRIGGER
A SECOND TIME.



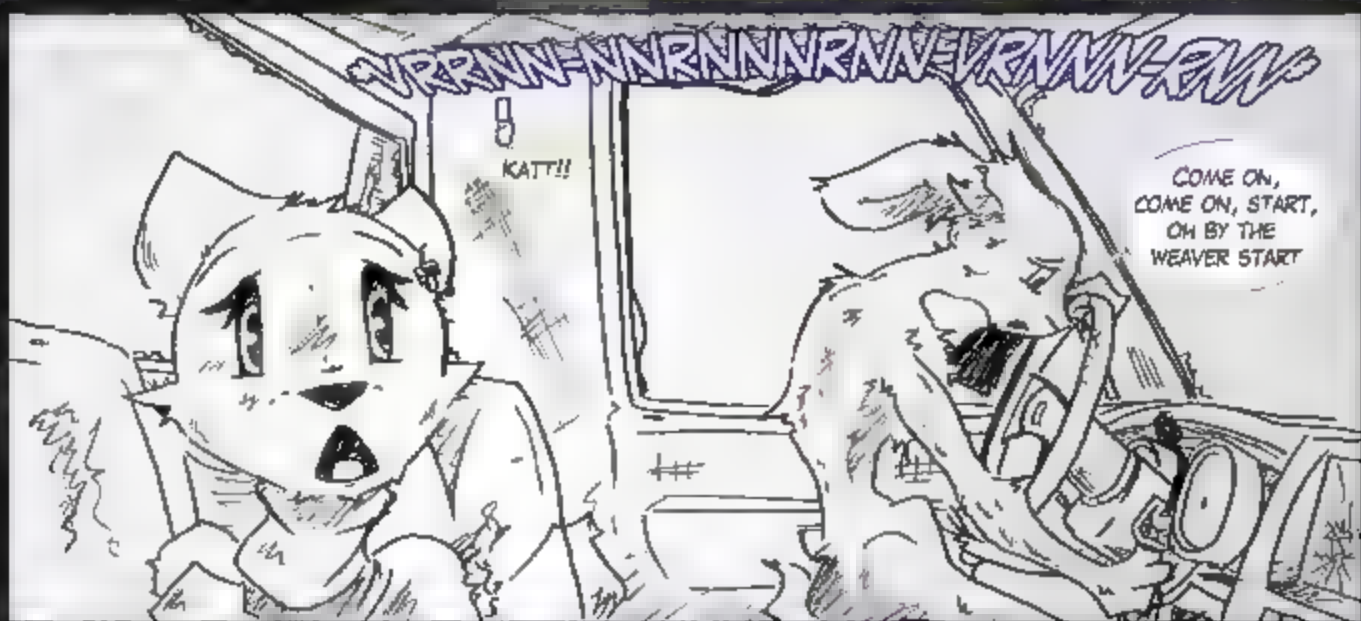
WHAM!!



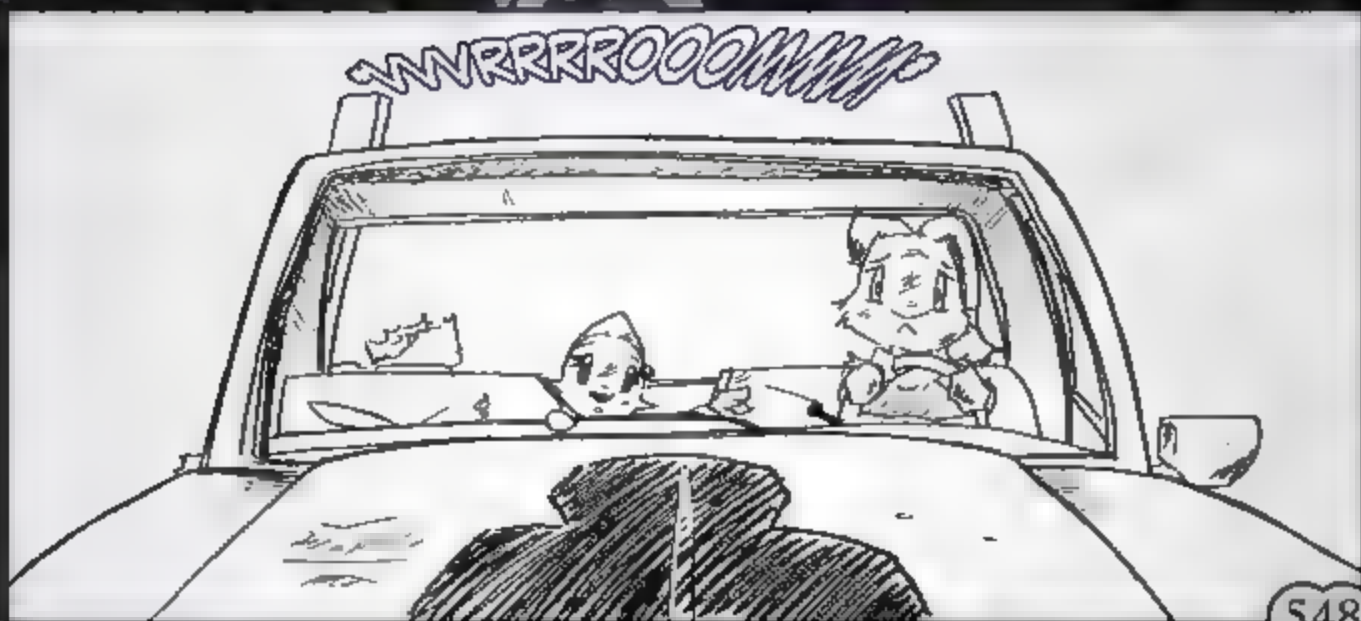
VRNN-NRNNRNN-VRNN-VRNN

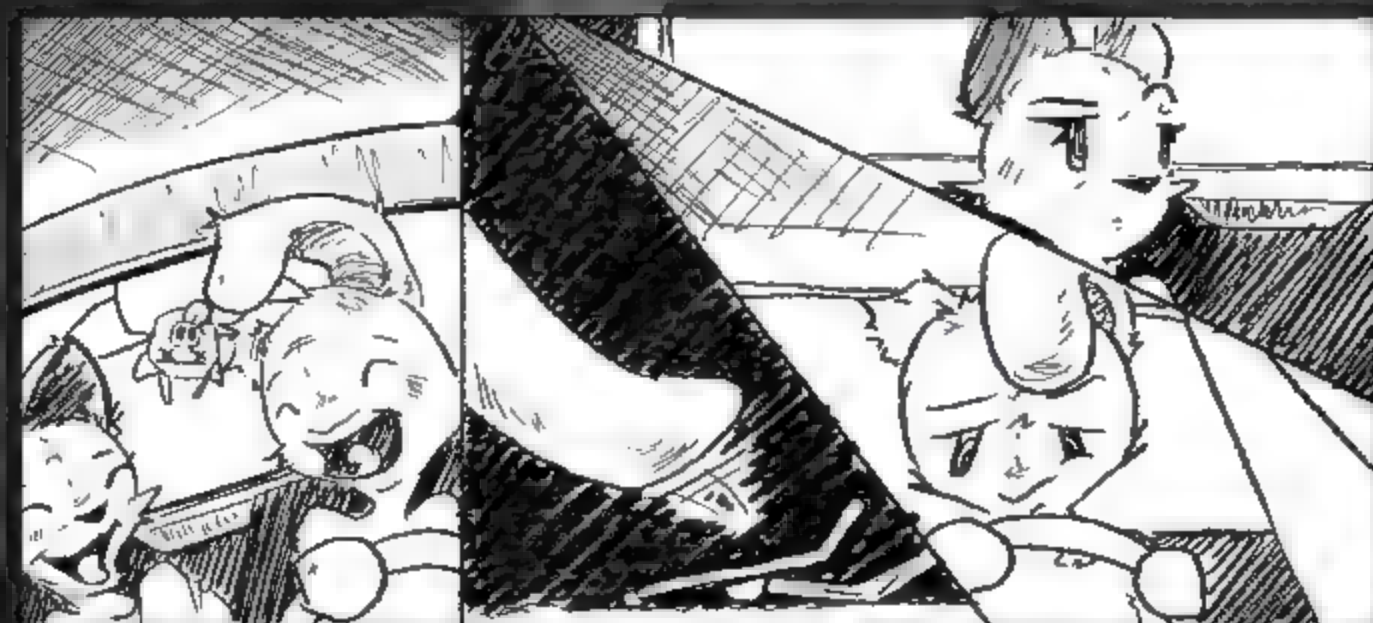
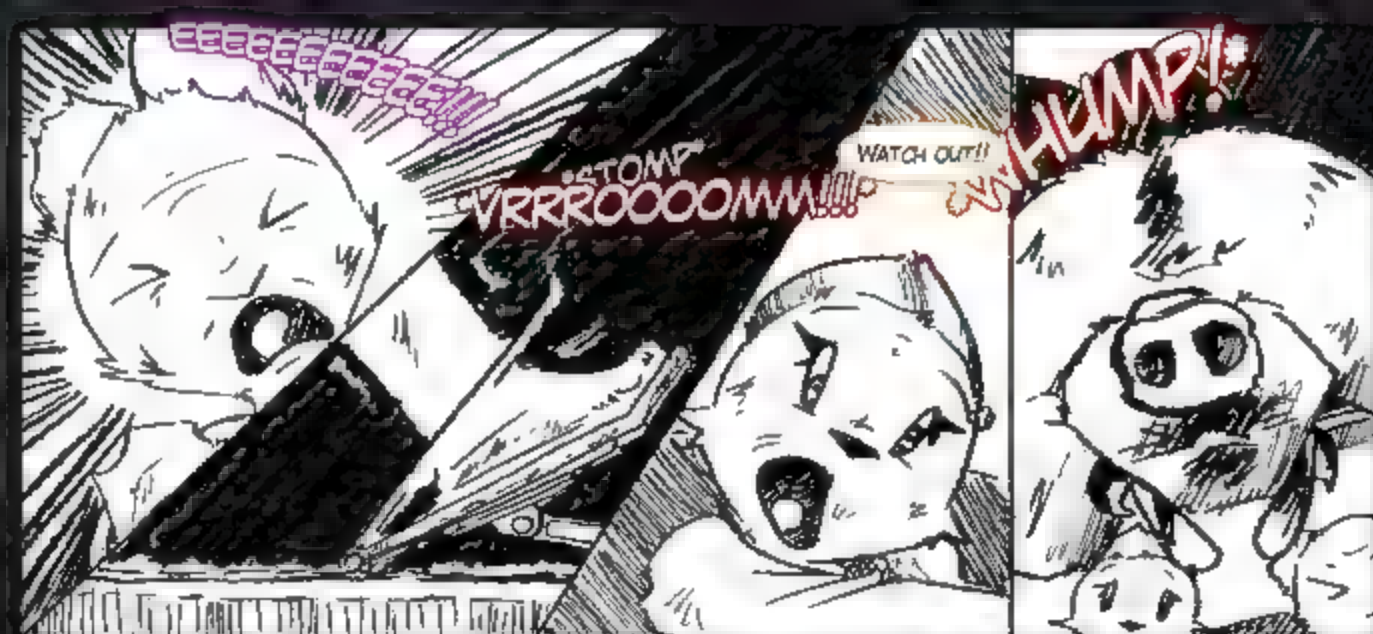
KATT!!

COME ON,
COME ON, START,
OH BY THE
WEAVER START



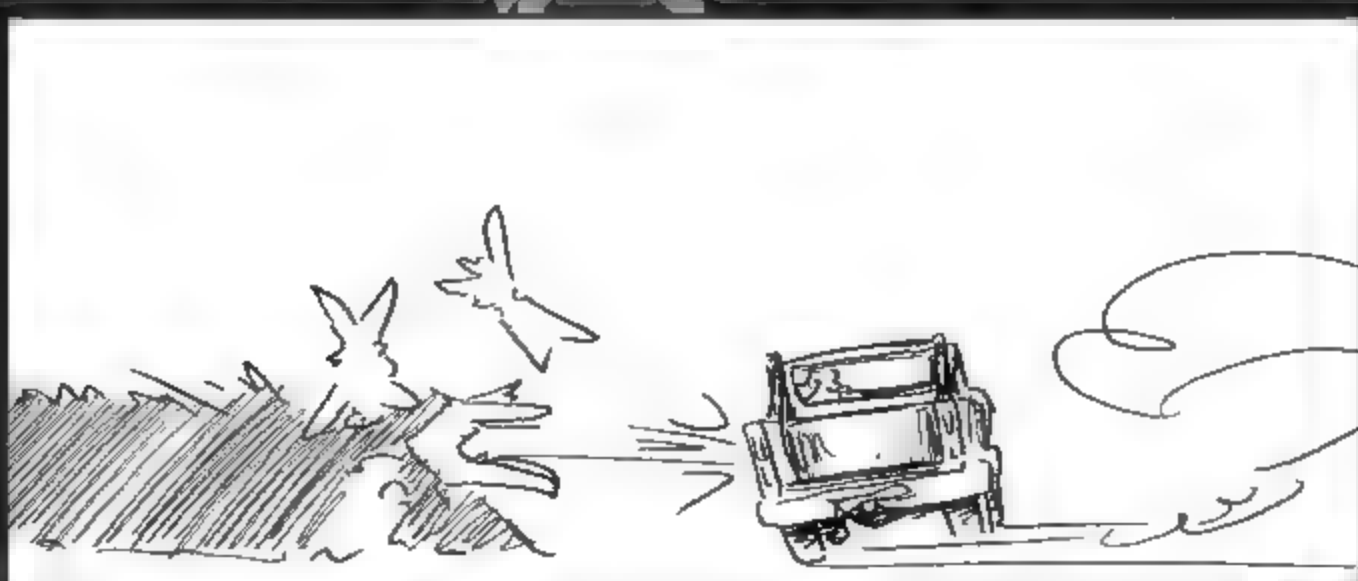
WNRROOOO





THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP!

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



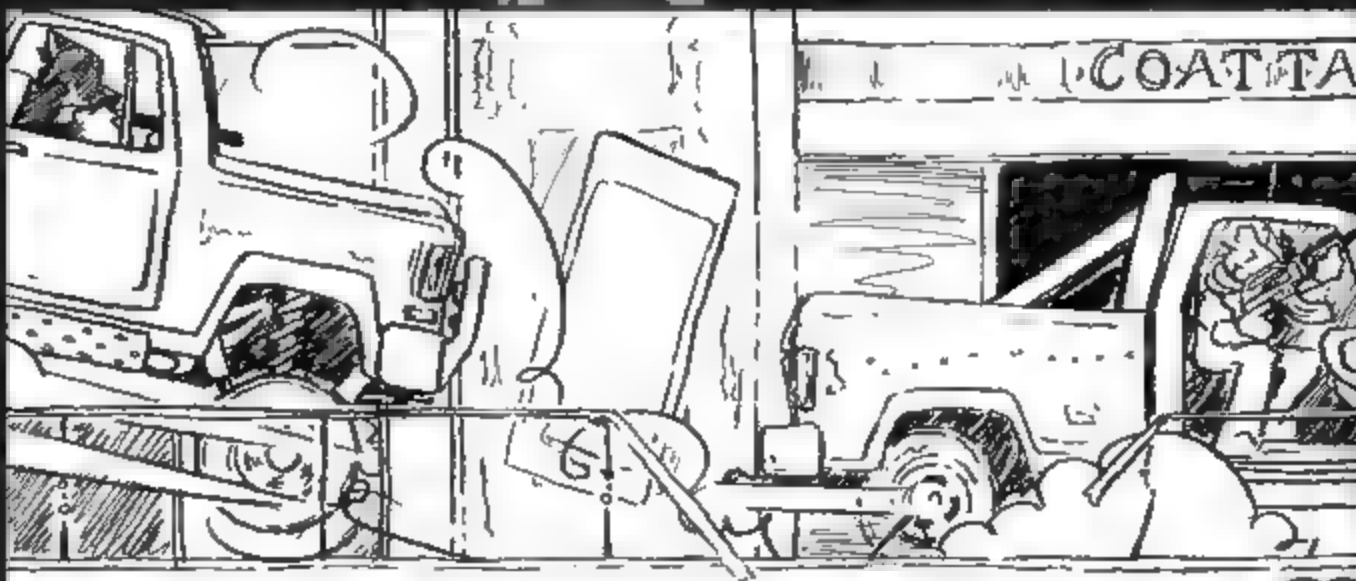
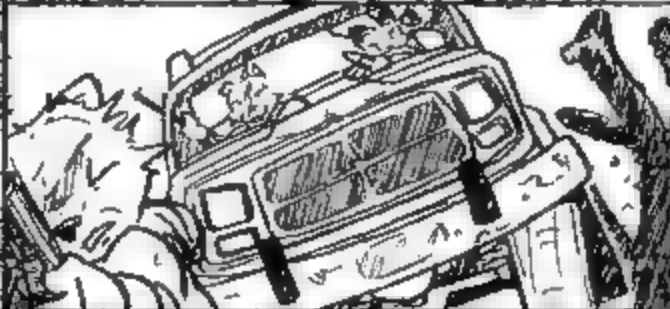
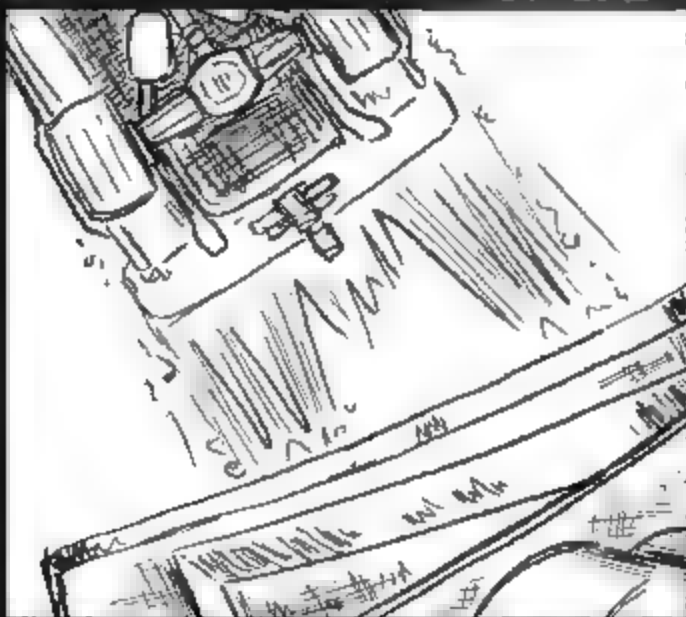


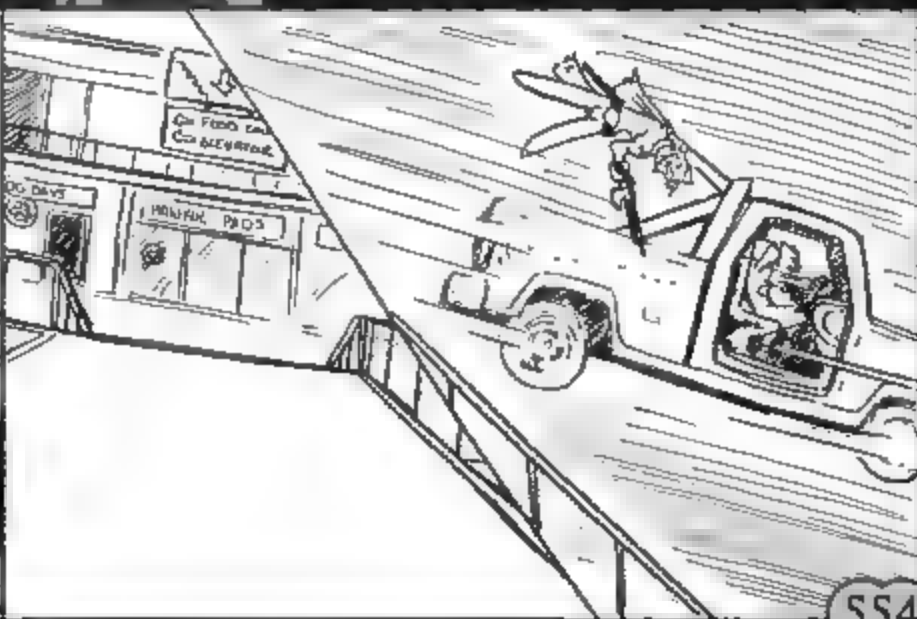
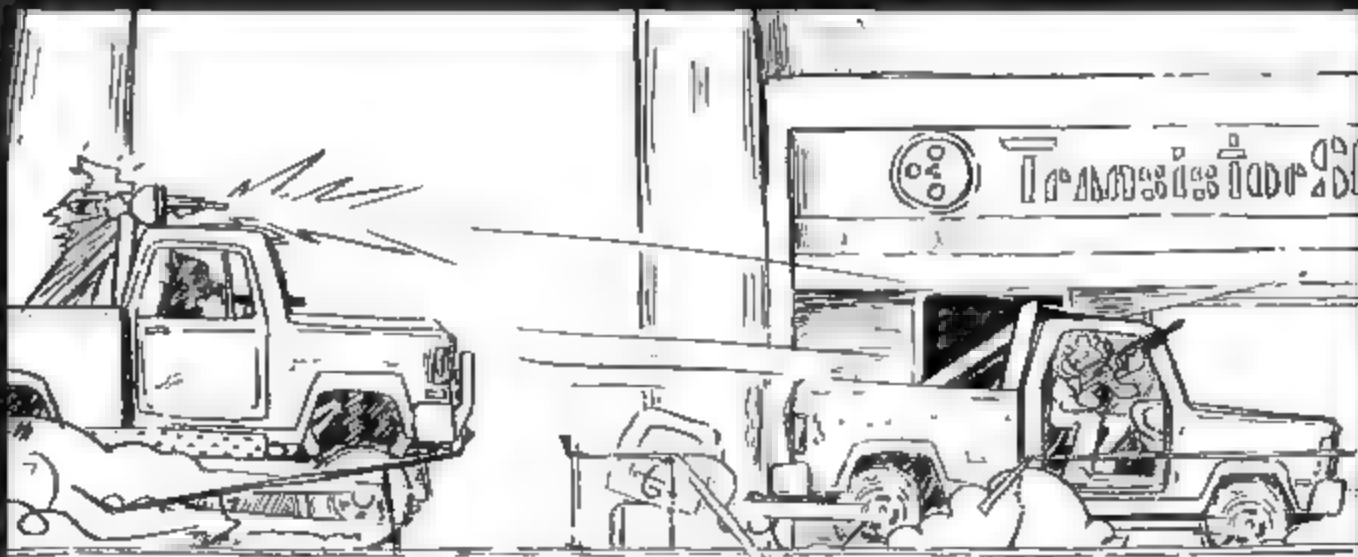
WE'RE GOING TO
DIE! WE'RE GOING TO
DIE! WE'RE GOING
TO DIE!

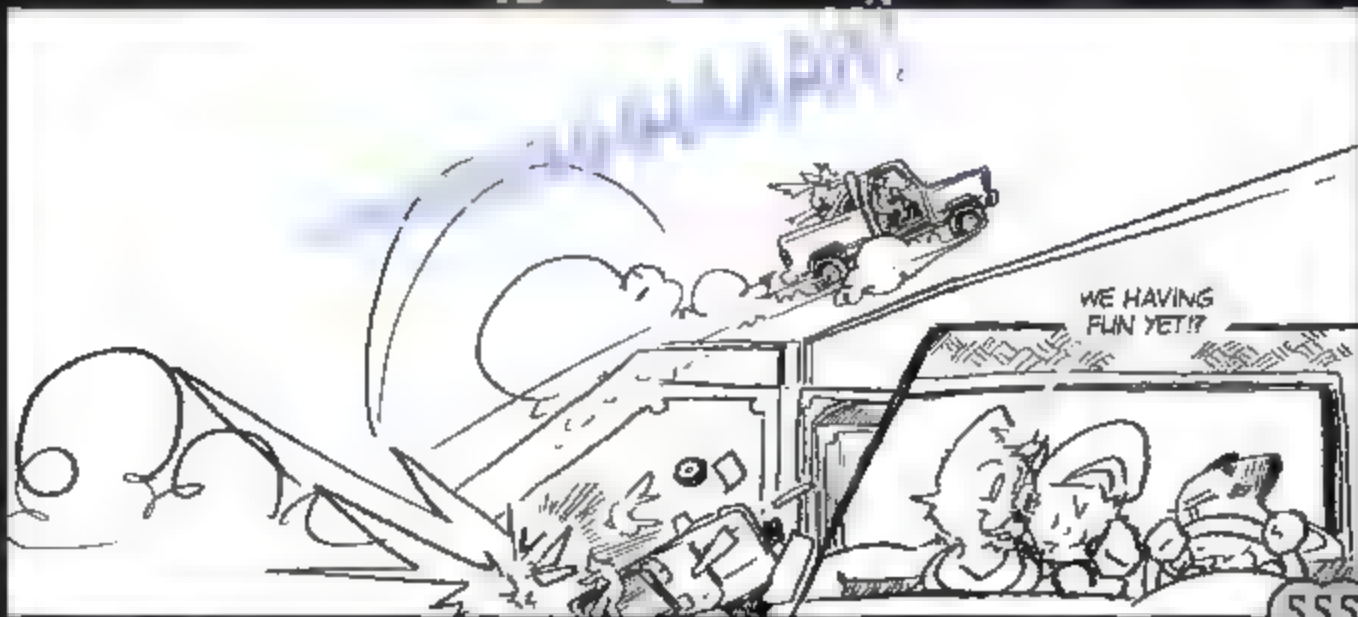
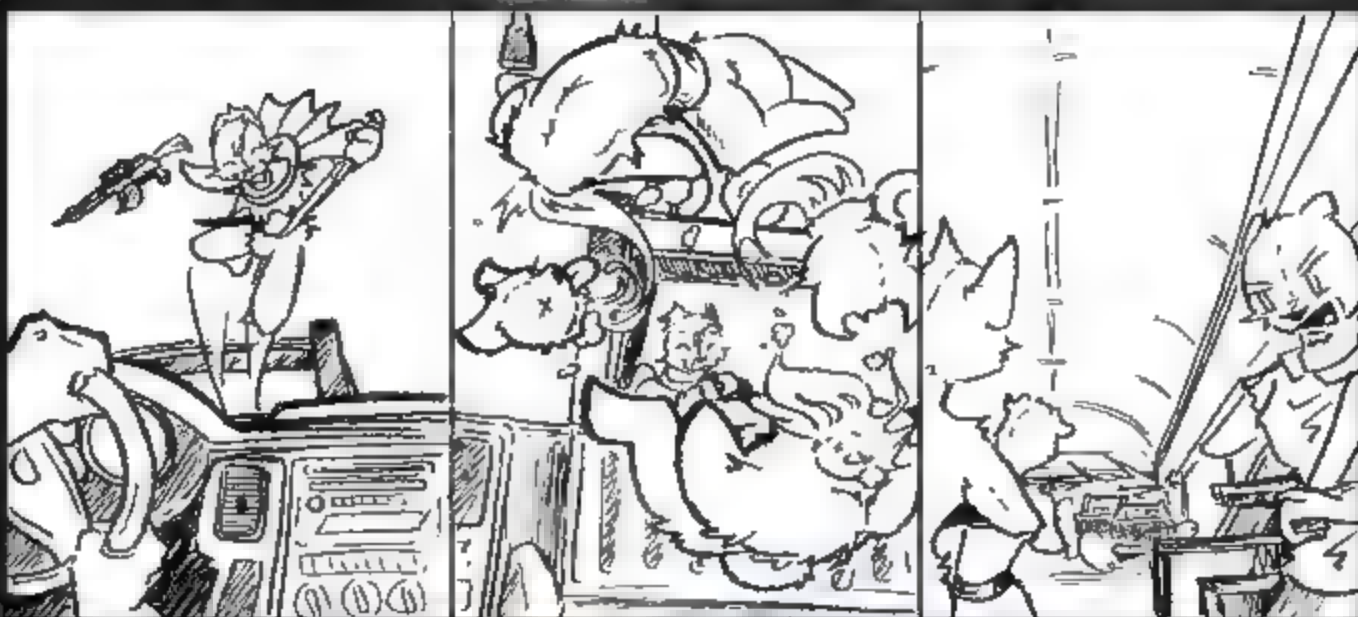
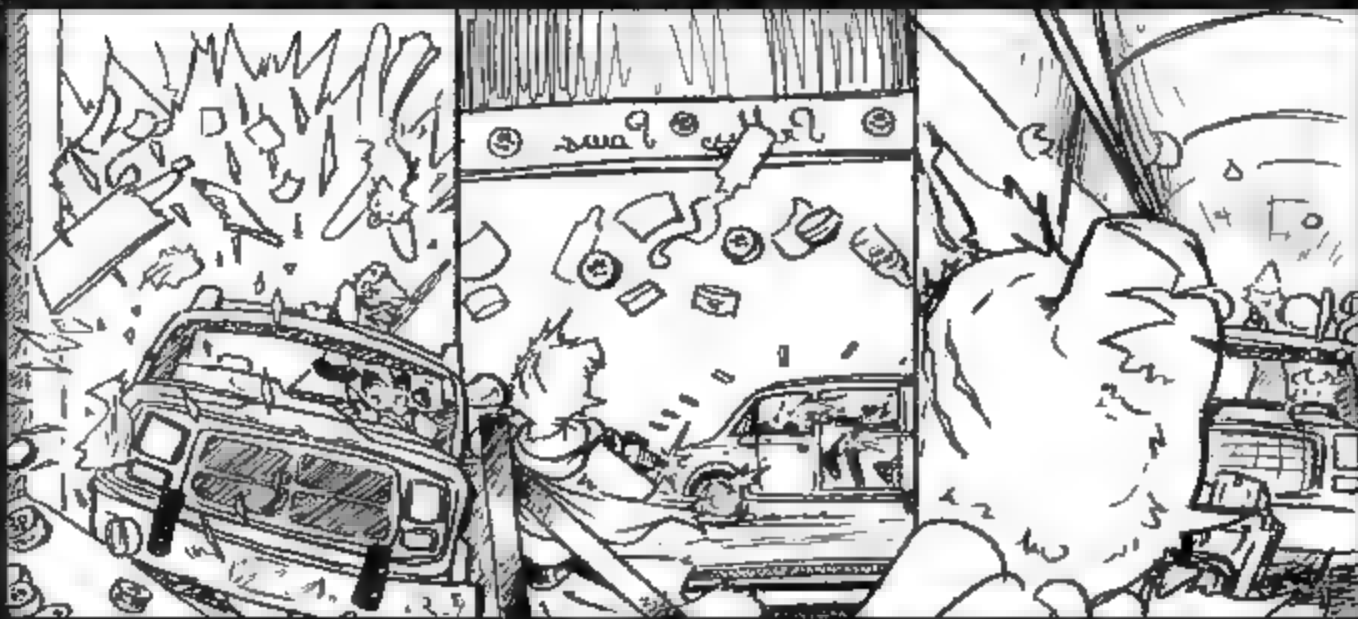


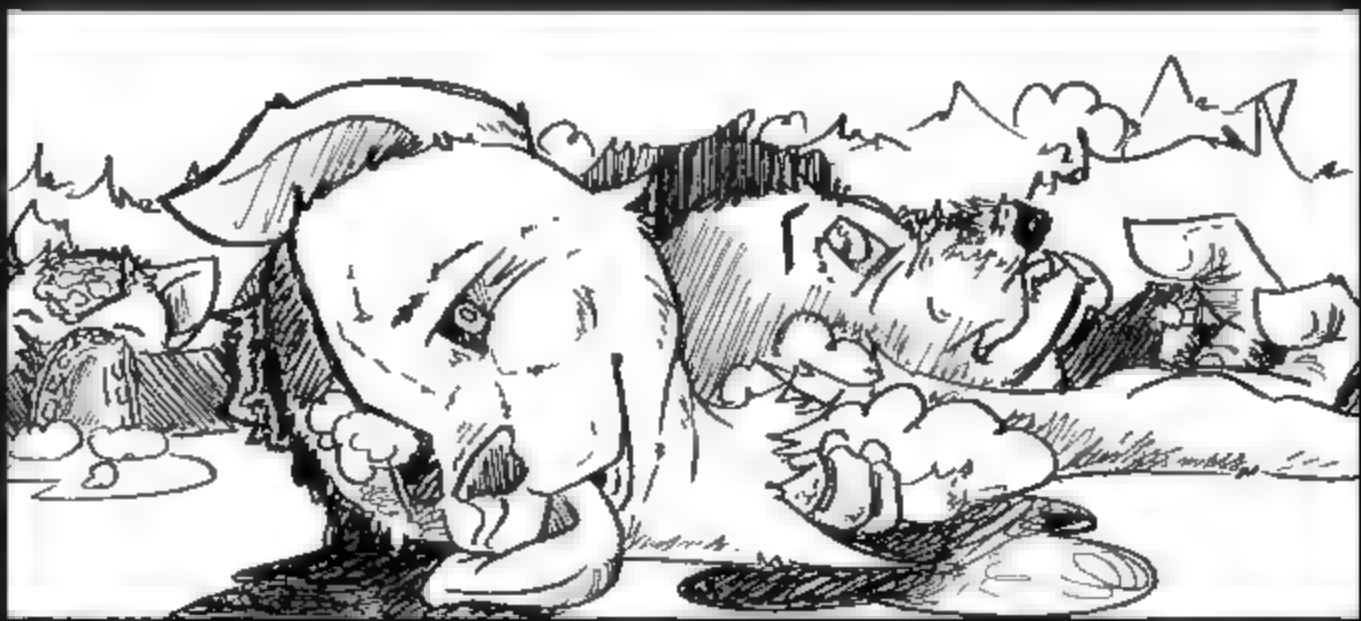
HELLO SUNSHINE,
WE JUST KEEP
RUNNING INTO
EACH OTHER.

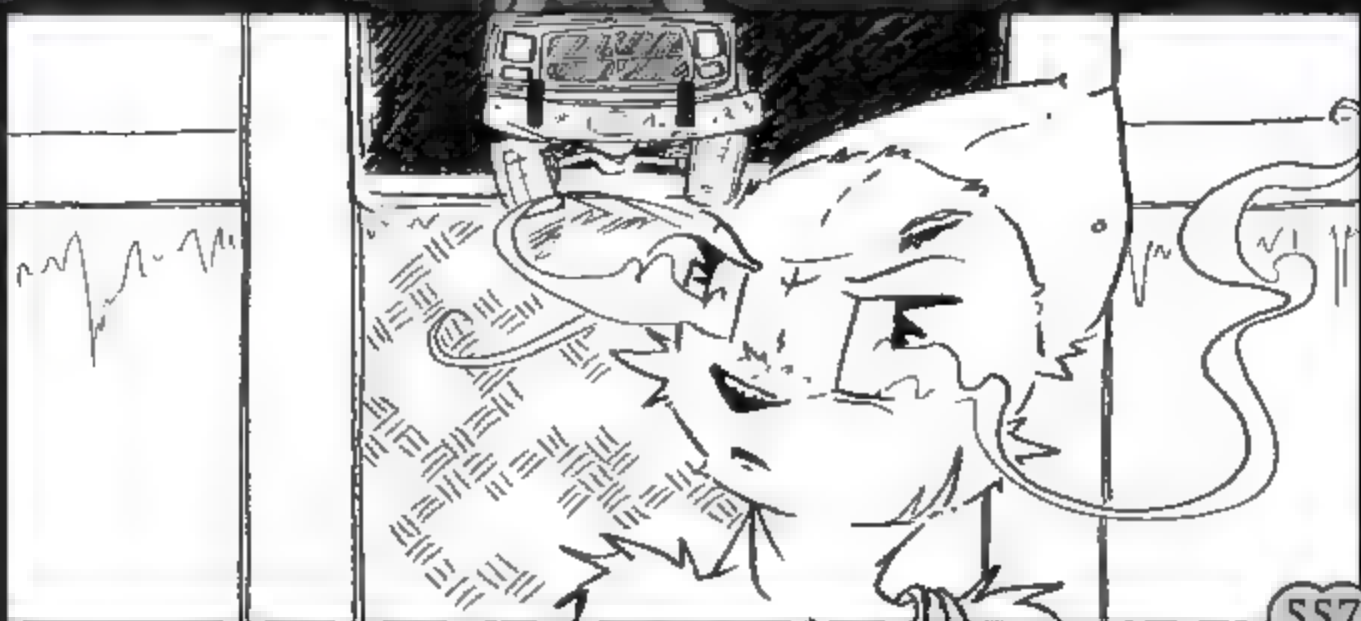
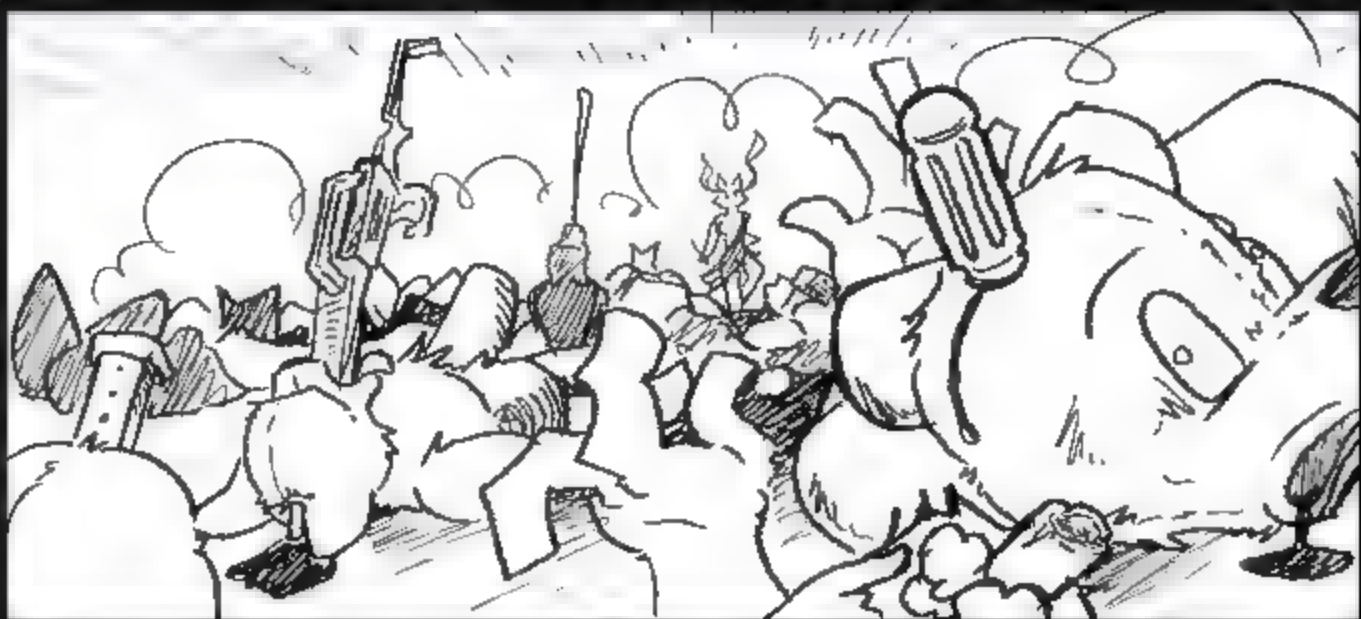


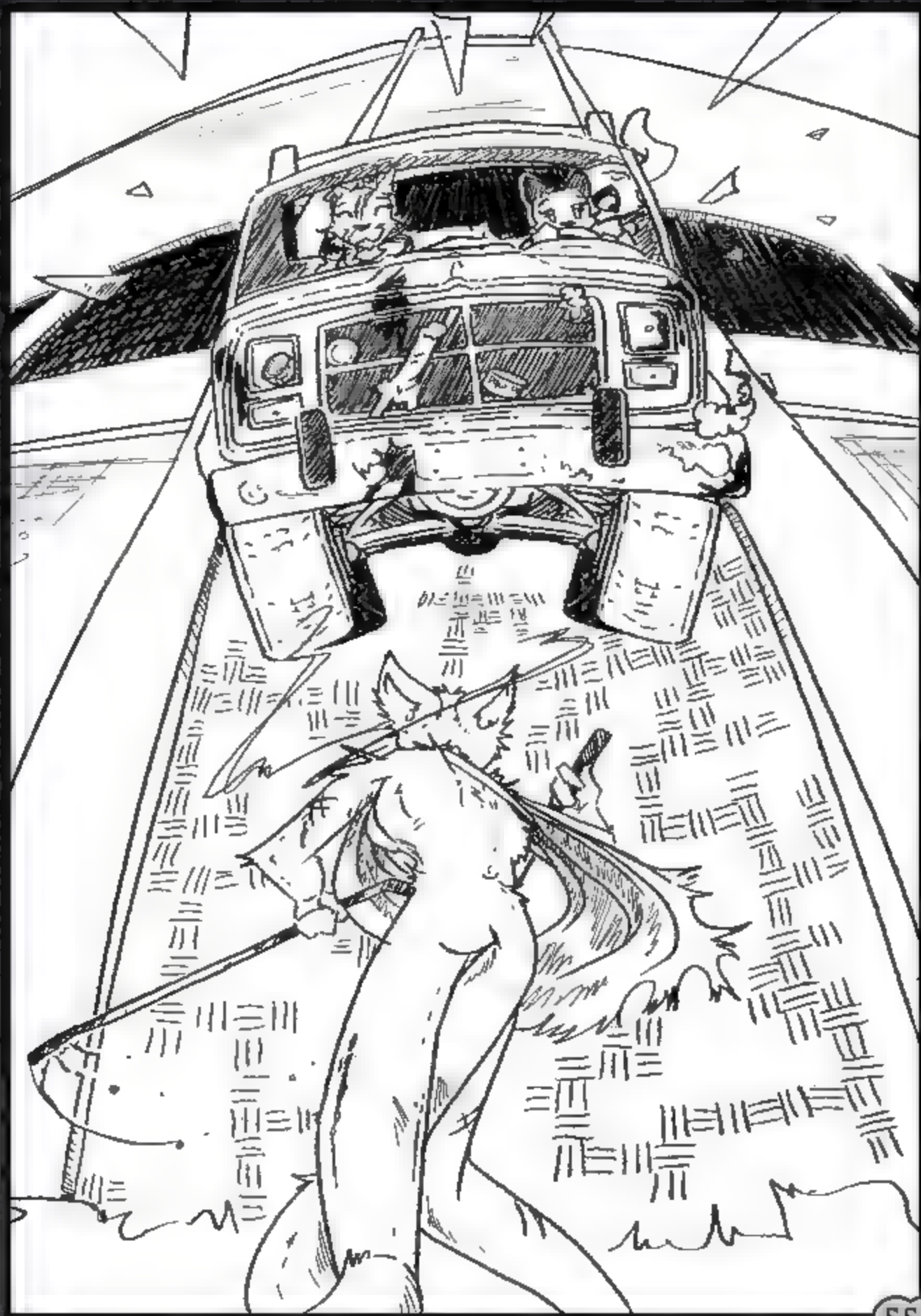


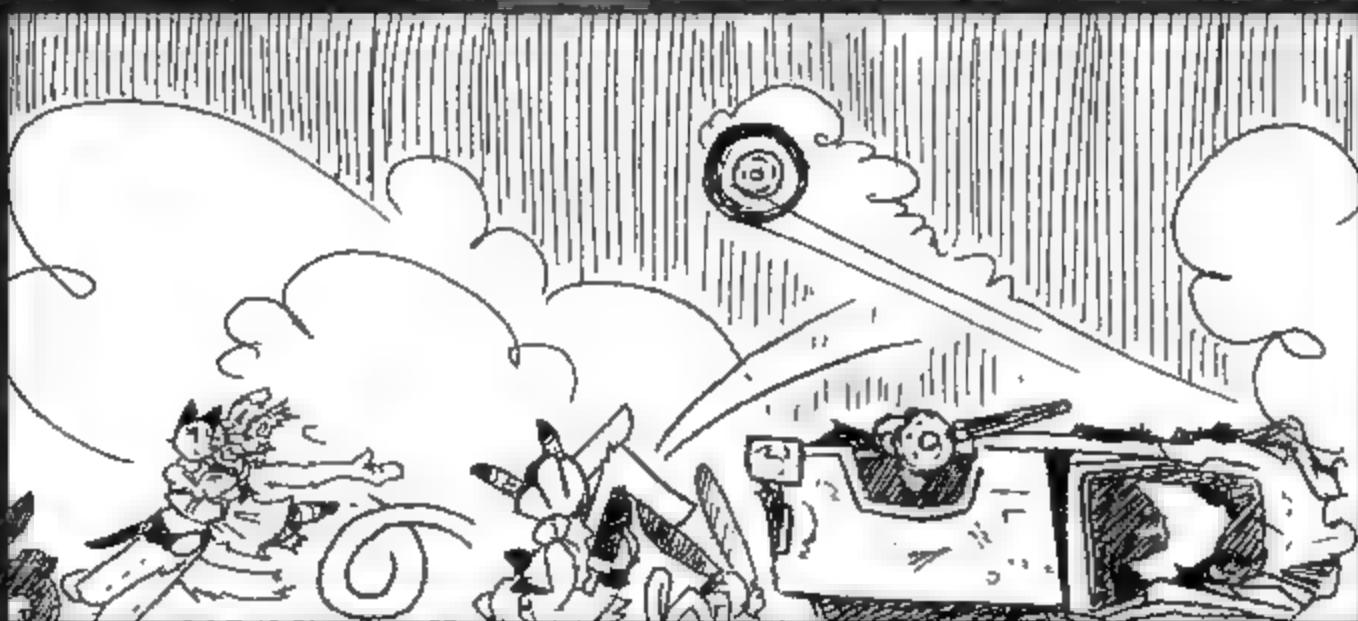
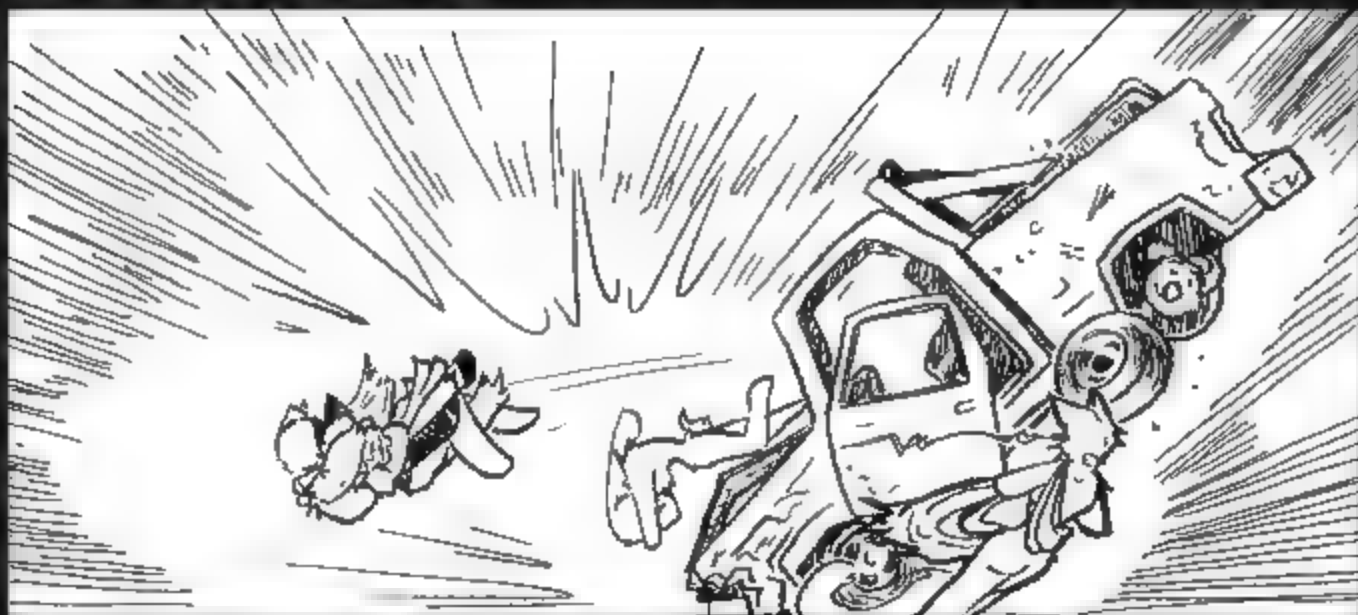








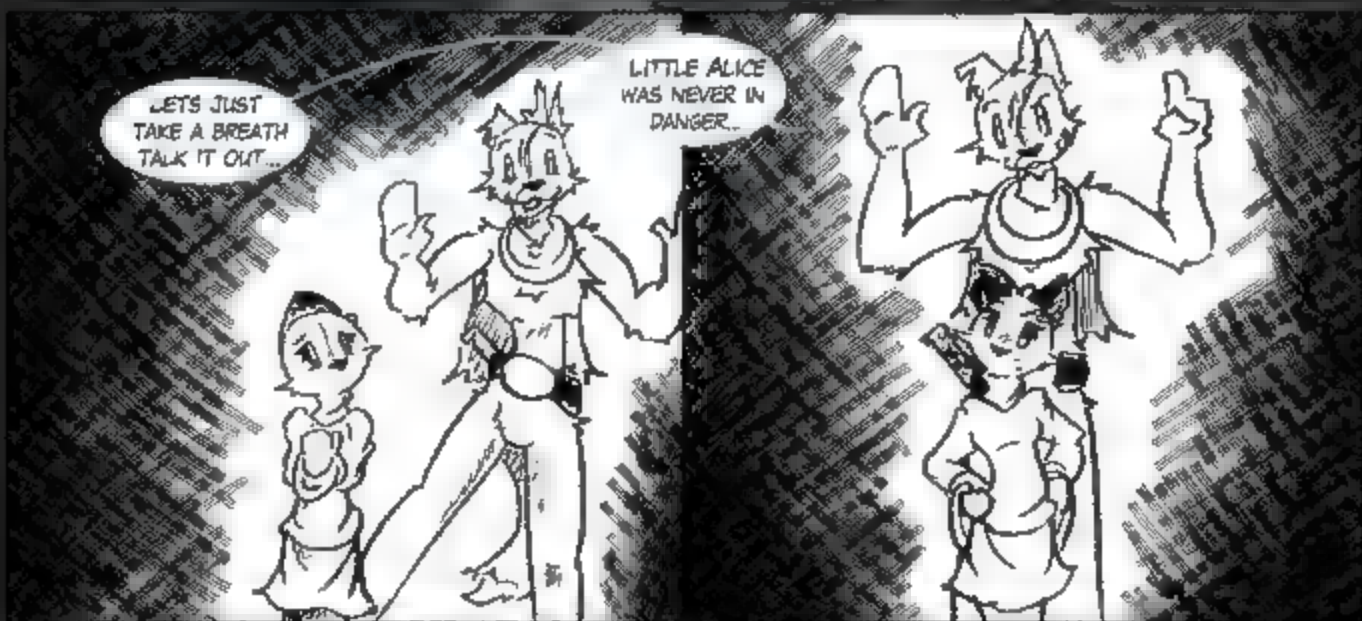






COLE...

WHOA NOW
SISTER...



LET'S JUST
TAKE A BREATH
TALK IT OUT...

LITTLE ALICE
WAS NEVER IN
DANGER...



KATT...P
ITS OKAY... MOMMY,
I'M FINE.



OH ALICE!
I-I DIDN'T WANT YOU
TO SEE...



FORGIVE ME.

MOMMY.



ITS OKAY
MOMMY





YOU KNOW SIS...
YOU DO BEAUTIFUL WORK
FATHER WOULD BE
PROUD

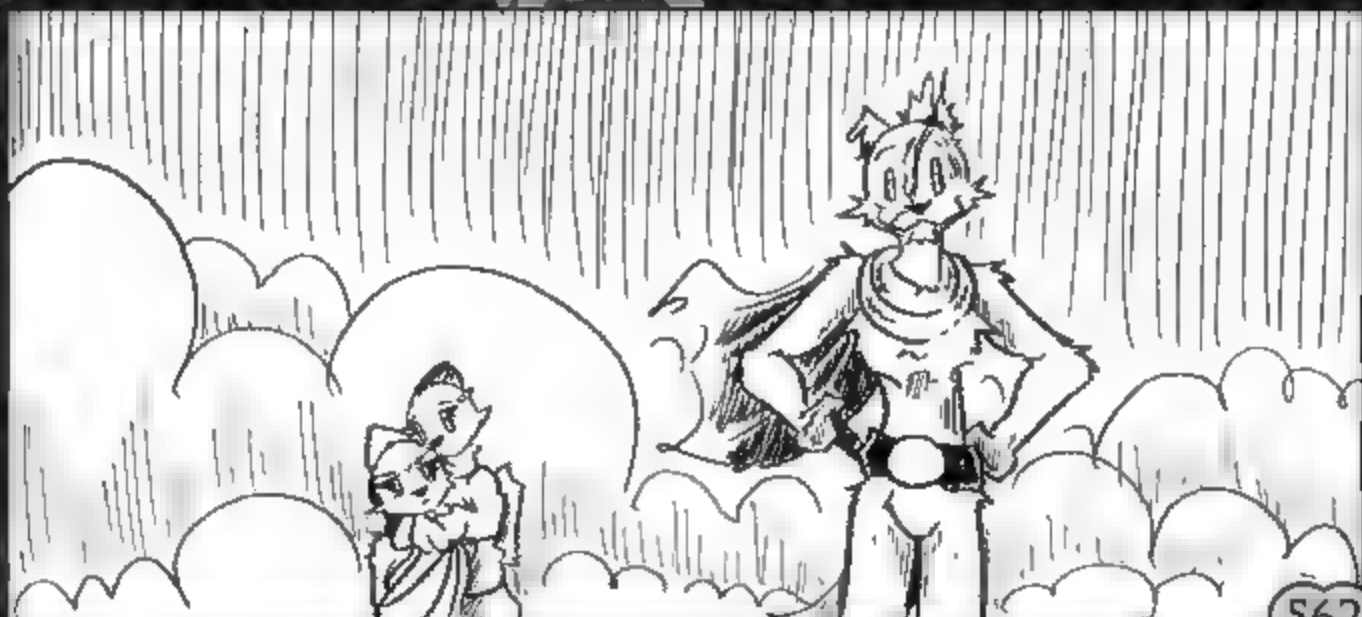


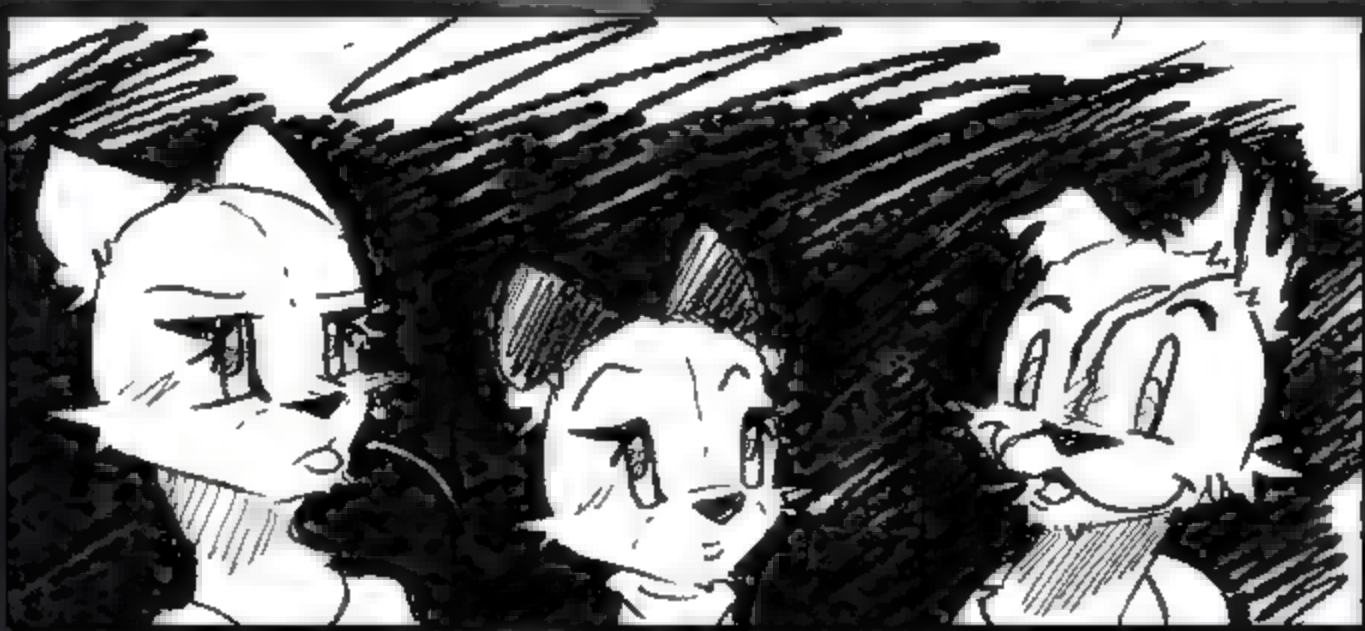
I'M GOING TO
KILL YOU

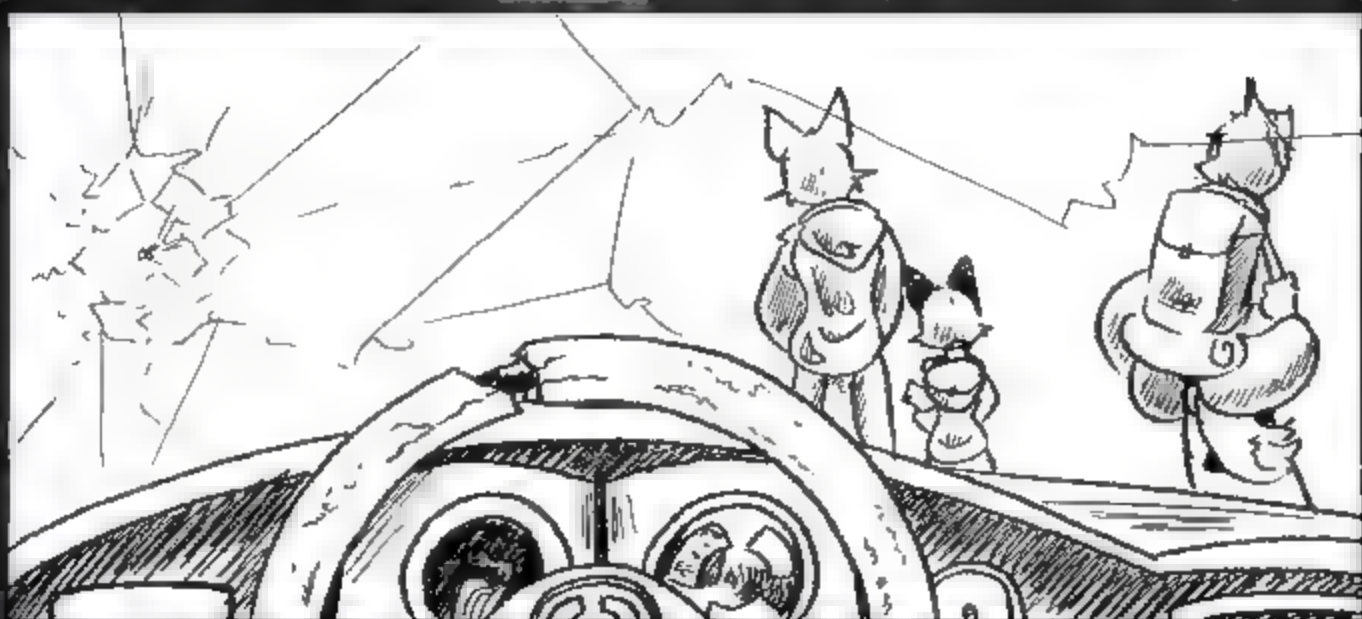
MOMMY



OF COURSE!
OF COURSE, NOT
TODAY THOUGH. ANYONE
REMEMBER WHERE WE
DROPPED OUR SHIT?









WHAT IS
THIS?

THE LOCALS
CALL IT THE RIFT. IT
IS THE SCAR OF
JUDGMENT DAY.

CRACKED THIS
CONTINENT LIKE AN
EGGSHELL.



WHAT HAPPENED?

AN EXPLOSION
SO BIG IT SPLIT THE LAND
AND COVERED THE
PLANET IN ASH.

AN EXPLOSION,
HA, SIGATON CRUST CRACKER
THE BEAN DID NOT MESS AROUND
WHEN IT CAME TO
A REACTORS.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND

THERE USED TO
BE A CITY OUT THERE
IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THAT
AN EVIL MAN ONCE CONTROLLED
THE ENTIRE WORLD
FROM THAT CITY.

OH NO

BUT ONE DAY
TWO MEN DECIDED TO
GIVE THE WORLD BACK TO THE
PLUSH. SO THEY BROKE THE
MAN AND HIS EMPIRE.

BUT THE
EMPIRE WAS THE
ENTIRE WORLD.

WERE THESE
TWO MEN BAD?

W-WHAT?

THEY BLEW UP
THE BAD MAN'S WORLD,
BUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE
ARE DEAD.

YEAH THAT SOUNDS
LIKE BAD MEN TO ME,
DEVILS IN FACT COME TO
THINK OF IT

I THINK THEY
HAD A THIRD PLUSH
HELPING THEM.

COOL.

THE EVIL MAN
HAD ENSLAVED THE ENTIRE
WORLD. THE ONLY WAY TO BREAK
HIS HOLD ON EVERYONE SO THEY
COULD BE FREE WAS TO REMOVE
THE EVIL MAN.

WHY DID THEY
DESTROY THE WORLD
THENT

GOOD LUCK
EXPLAINING STUFFING
TO A TEN YEAR OLD.

STUFFING?
LIKE INSIDE NET?

IT'S VERY
COMPLICATED
HONEY

SOMETIMES A
MAN HAS TO DO WHAT
HE THINKS IS RIGHT IT
MAY SEEM BAD NOW BUT THEY
GAVE THE WORLD A
SECOND CHANCE

OH..
CAN YOU FIGHT
EVIL WITH EVIL?

DID THOSE TWO
MEN BECOME WHAT THEY
WERE FIGHTING?

NO, THEY DID
WHAT THEY DID TO
GIVE THE WORLD A SECOND
CHANCE AND DIED FOR
IT

WHAT IF
THERE HAD BEEN
ANOTHER WAY?

I DON'T
KNOW MONEY

HOW DID THEY
GET TO DECIDE HOW
THE WORLD WAS GOING
TO WORK?

ALWAYS WITH THE
TOUGH QUESTIONS. THAT
IS ANOTHER COMPLICATED ANSWER.
SOMETIMES ALL THE GOOD GUYS
ARE GONE AND ALL YOU HAVE
LEFT ARE THE MONSTERS
IN THE DARK.

BUT FIGHTING EVIL
WITH EVIL SOLVES NOTHING.
YOU BECOME WHAT YOU
ARE FIGHTING.

THE ENDS
JUSTIFY THE MEANS?

ALWAYS.

SOMETIMES IT
IS REQUIRED OF A MAN
TO TAKE THE DESTINIES OF
OTHERS INTO HIS OWN
HANDS FOR THE
GREATER GOOD.

NOT ALWAYS.
WE CANNOT JUDGE
THE ACTIONS OF ANOTHER
IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD THEIR
SIDE OF THE STORY

REMEMBER WHAT
YOU SAID ABOUT ME?

ALL PEOPLE
NEED TO DO IS GET
TO KNOW YOU AND THEN
THEY WOULD REALIZE HOW
NICE YOU ARE.

NOTHING LIKE
SOME MOTHER DAUGHTER
TIME TO PUT EVERYTHING
IN PERSPECTIVE.

AN, LIFE
LESSONS.

SHUT UP COLE

WE SHOULD
GET MOVING, WE'RE
BURNING DAYLIGHT

SO MY DEAR
SISTER, YOU HAVE NOT
TOLD ME WHY YOU KEEP
TO FIND BART

YOU CAN PLAY
THE SILENT GAME ALL
YOU WANT BUT I'LL FIND
OUT EVENTUALLY

I NEED HIM
TO DECIDE SOMETHING
FOR ME

WHAT KIND OF
SOMETHING?

YOU KNOW FOR
SOMEONE THAT WANTS
ANSWERS YOU'RE PRETTY SHY
ON GIVING THEM

YOU HAVE NOT
ASKED ME ONCE ABOUT
YOURSELF

THERE ARE PRICES
I AM WILLING TO PAY AND
PRICES I AM NOT. CAN YOU SUGGEST
WHAT CATEGORY YOU
FALL INTO?

COME ON NOW
DON'T CHANGE
THAT MIND

AS A BROTHER
YOU SHOULD BE WORSE
THEN HAPPY TO SHARE WHAT
YOU KNOW FREELY

AS MY SISTER
YOU SHOULD BE MORE
TRUSTING

TRUST HAS
NOTHING TO DO
WITH BEING
SINGLESS

HOW CAN ASKING
ME ANYTHING PLAY TO MY
ADVANTAGE? THAT SOUNDS LIKE
PARANOIDA. I CAN'T EVEN WITHHOLD
INFORMATION BECAUSE YOU
DON'T WANT WHAT
I HAVE.

INDIFFERENCE
IS A BITCH

KATY

IT'S NOT ABOUT
WHAT YOU HAVE OR DON'T
ONE QUESTION WILL LEAD
TO TWO TWO TO THREE
THREE TO COMFORT

COMFORT TO
GENUINE CONVERSATION
GENUINE CONVERSATION
TO A DROPPED GUARD

THAT IS
PARANOIDA IF
I HAVE EVER
HEARD IT

I WILL GET
THE ANSWERS TO MY
QUESTIONS WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
SO YOU CAN STAY SILENT
FOR ALL I CARE

SUCH BITTERNESS,
COME ON, ONE QUESTION
FREE OF CHARGE.



HOW DID
I END UP IN
THE BOX?



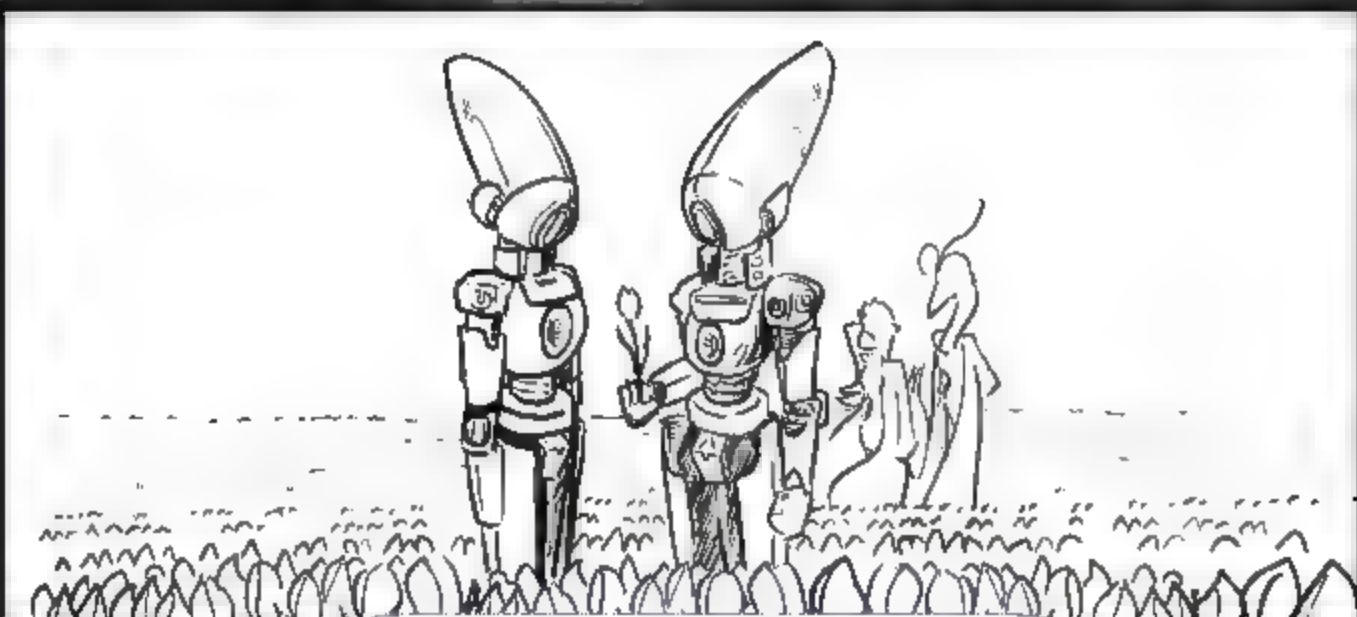
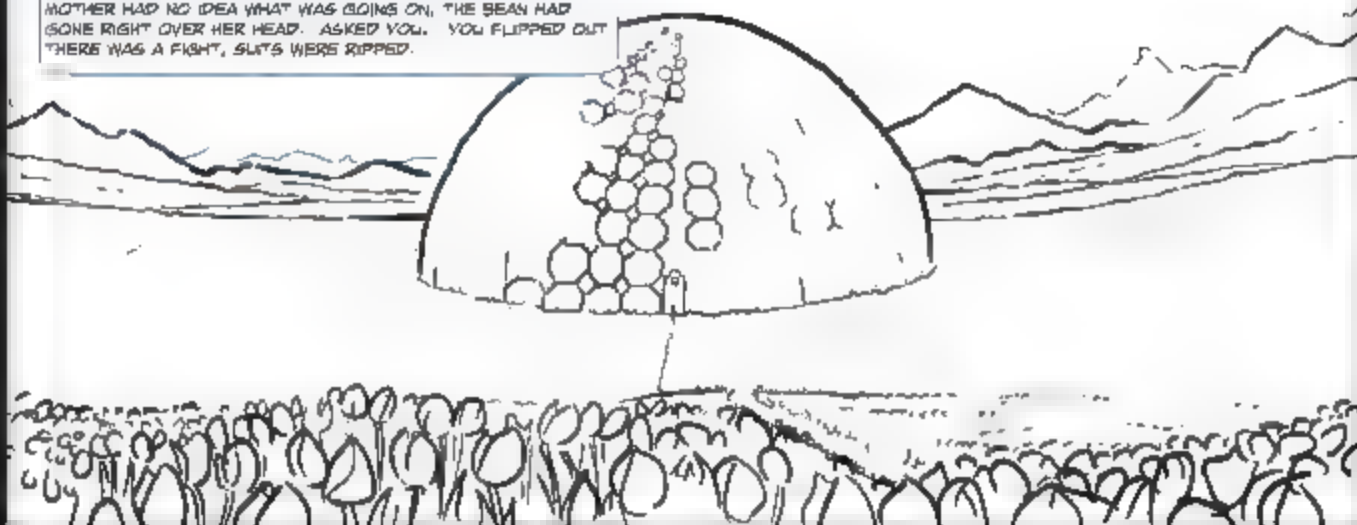
NOT THE QUESTION
I WAS EXPECTING. I
THOUGHT WE WENT
OVER THIS.



NO, WE WENT
OVER HOW YOU TRIED
TO HAVE YOUR WAY WITH ME
ON THE ORDERS OF THE BEAN
AND FAILED. THAT IS WHY I
ENDED UP IN THE BOX.
NOT HOW.



IT WAS DURING ONE OF OUR VISITS TO MOTHER'S FIELD. THE BEAN HAD GIVEN ME PRIVATE ORDERS THAT ONCE WE WERE ON YOUR SIDE OF THE FIELD I WAS TO GIVE THE ULTIMATUM. MOTHER HAD NO IDEA WHAT WAS GOING ON. THE BEAN HAD GONE RIGHT OVER HER HEAD. ASKED YOU. YOU FLIPPED OUT THERE WAS A FIGHT, SUITS WERE RIPPED.



AND WE ALL FOUND OUT HOW LONG A FULLY FRENZIED FEMALE COULD LAST IN THE FIELD. WELL I'M NOT EVEN ATTUNED TO YOUR SIDE AND IT WAS MAKING ME DROWSY. IT TOOK YOU A FULL FIVE MINUTES TO SUCCEED TO THE EFFECTS OF THE DAISES. IN THAT TIME YOU RENDERED ME COMPLETELY UNCONSCIOUS AND WRECKED ALL KINDS OF HAVOC.



WHY WERE
YOU SO MEAN
TO KATTE

YOU COLLAPSED. WERE THROWN INTO A BOX, AND
WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. BUT
MOTHER APPARENTLY HAD OTHER PLANS.

I WASN'T TRYING
TO BE MEAN. I LOVE YOUR
BROTHER VERY MUCH.

TOO MUCH.
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO DO
WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.

BUT HE IS THE
LAST OF OUR KIND. IF ONE
OF US DIES THERE WILL NEVER
BE ANYONE LIKE US
EVER AGAIN.

BUT YOU SHOULDN'T
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SEX
WITH YOUR SISTER.

JUSTIFY IT ANYWAY
YOU PLEASE BROTHER. OUT
OF THE MOUTH OF BABIES
COMES PURE WISDOM.

CLEAR ENOUGH.

ARE YOU
SURE SHE'S TEN?

TOO TO SMART
AND MOUTHY FOR A
TEN YEAR OLD.

YOU HAVEN'T
EVEN THE SLIGHTEST
EMIA.

WHAT IS THE
FIELD OF FLOWERS?
YOU SAID YOUR BROTHER
MADE IT

KID YOU HAVE A
MEMORY LIKE A DAMNED
RECORDER SINCE WE ARE ALL
FAMILY HERE. I GUESS YOU
DESERVE TO KNOW

IMAGINE ALL OF
THAT LAND. PLUS THAT
LAND AGAIN, FILLED WITH FLOWERS.
EVERY SQUARE INCH OF
GROUND COVERED.

YOU'VE WALKED
A LONG WAY HAVEN'T YOU.

HALF OF THE FIELD IS FILLED WITH IVORY DAISIES, THE OTHER
HALF WITH DEEP MAROON TULIPS. YOU COULD STAND ON
THE MOON AND SEE IT FROM THE LUNAR SURFACE. THESE
AREN'T REGULAR DAISIES AND TULIPS THOUGH. THEY ARE
SPECIAL. CRAFTED BY MOTHER.

YOU COULD REACH DOWN AND PLUCK A FLOWER FROM
THE GROUND. STICK IT IN YOUR MOUTH AND EAT IT.
HAVE A DOZEN FOR A LIGHT LUNCH, TWO DOZEN FOR
DINNER. AT A FOUR WEEK GROWTH CYCLE IT CRUSHED
WORLD HUNGER.

MOTHER WAS GOD

BUT EVEN THE GLORY OF SOLVING WORLD HUNGER
STOOD IN THE SHADOW OF ITS TRUE PURPOSE.

TO CONTROL
THE PLUSH
TO CONTROL US.

I KNOW YOU
ARE DIFFERENT. I'M NOT
DUMB. IF YOUR MOMMY WAS GOD
THEN SHE MADE KATT
THE ANGEL AND YOU
THE DEMON.

WHY CAN'T THERE
BE TWO ANGELS?

BECAUSE YOU
CAN NOT HAVE GOOD
WITHOUT EVIL.
KATT IS GOOD.

WHAT ARE YOU
IMPLYING CHILD?

I'M NOT IMPLYING.

THE CHILD YOU
ARE RAISING S.S.
THOSE MANNERS COULD
USE SOME WORK.

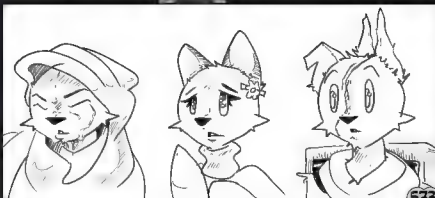
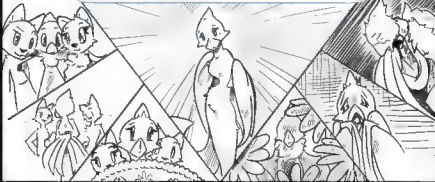
WHAT DID YOUR
MOMMY LOOK LIKE?

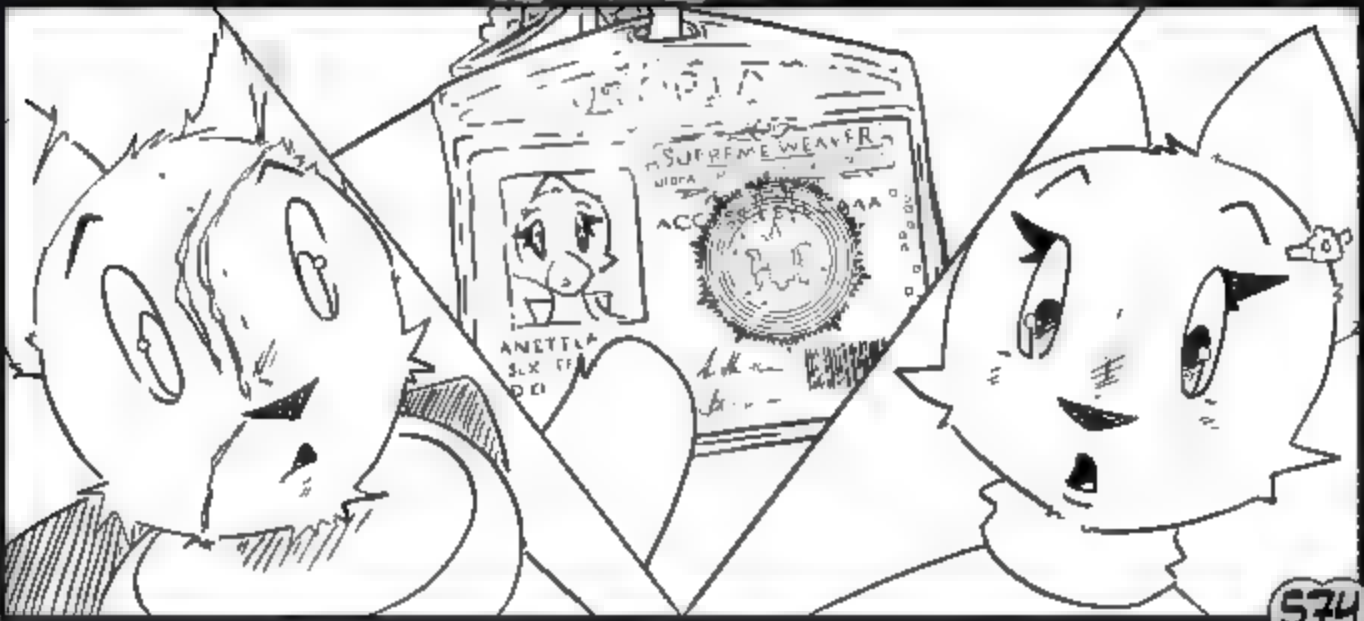
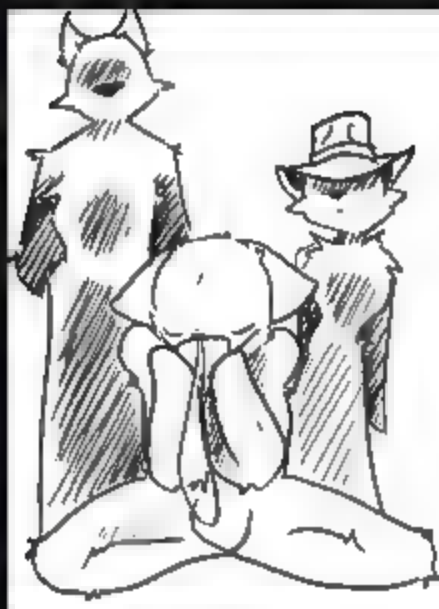
WHY DO I
HAVE TO ANSWER
YOU?

KATT WON'T ASK
YOU ANYTHING, SO I AM
ASKING YOU WHAT I WANT
TO KNOW ABOUT.

FAIR ENOUGH.

A PRETTY LITTLE BLUE BIRD WITH A CREAMY BLUE STRIPE DOWN HER MIDDLE. DELICATE WINGS
AND A STRAIGHT RIBBON OF TAIL FEATHERS CURLED AT THE END. KIND OF SHY, A LOT OF CRAZ
AND 15X TIMES OVER A GENIUS. LOOKED ELEGANT IN A LAB COAT. YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT
WONDERFUL WOMEN. SHE WAS THE BEST.







KATT...

I LOVE YOU
MOMMY



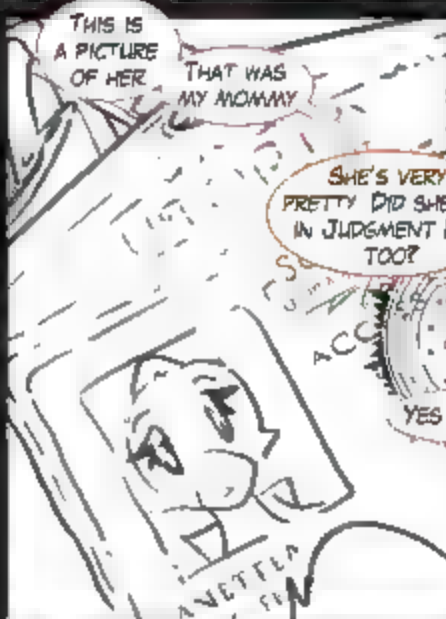
I LOVE YOU
ALICE HONEY

YOU WANTED
TO KNOW WHAT MY
MOMMY LOOKED
LIKE?



YES BUT
I DIDN'T-

IT'S OK HONEY.



THIS IS
A PICTURE
OF HER

THAT WAS
MY MOMMY

SHE'S VERY
PRETTY DID SHE DIE
IN JUDGMENT DAY
TOO?

YES HONEY



MAY I SEE IT?



THANK YOU





NO REALLY,
THANK YOU.





YOU WHERE
THERE WHEN
MOTHER DIED?

HOW DID
SHE DIED?

WHAT DO YOU
WANT? YOUR BIRTHDAY?
YOUR KILL COUNT?
YOUR NAME?

YOU FORSET,
I WANT NOTHING
FROM YOU

WHAT DO
YOU WANT?

ALICE AND
I ARE GOING TO
SEE BURT

I WANT
YOU TO STAY
DOWN HERE.

BUT I
HAVE BUSINESS
WITH-

FINE

SWEAR ON IT, THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME WE WILL BE TOUCHING SINCE
YOU GRABBED ME IN YOUR SEEDY
LITTLE BAR. IF YOU VIOLATE THIS
TRUST, IT WILL BE THE LAST TIME
YOU EVER TOUCH ME.

I SWEAR IT

crick.

I KILLED HER,
I DID NOT EVEN KNOW
WHO SHE WAS AT
THE TIME.



BURT!
I KNOW YOU'RE
UP THERE!

I GUESS
WE'RE EXPECTED.



BURT,
DO YOU REALLY
THINK I WOULD COME
ALL THE WAY OUT HERE
TO KILL YOUR
OLD BONES?

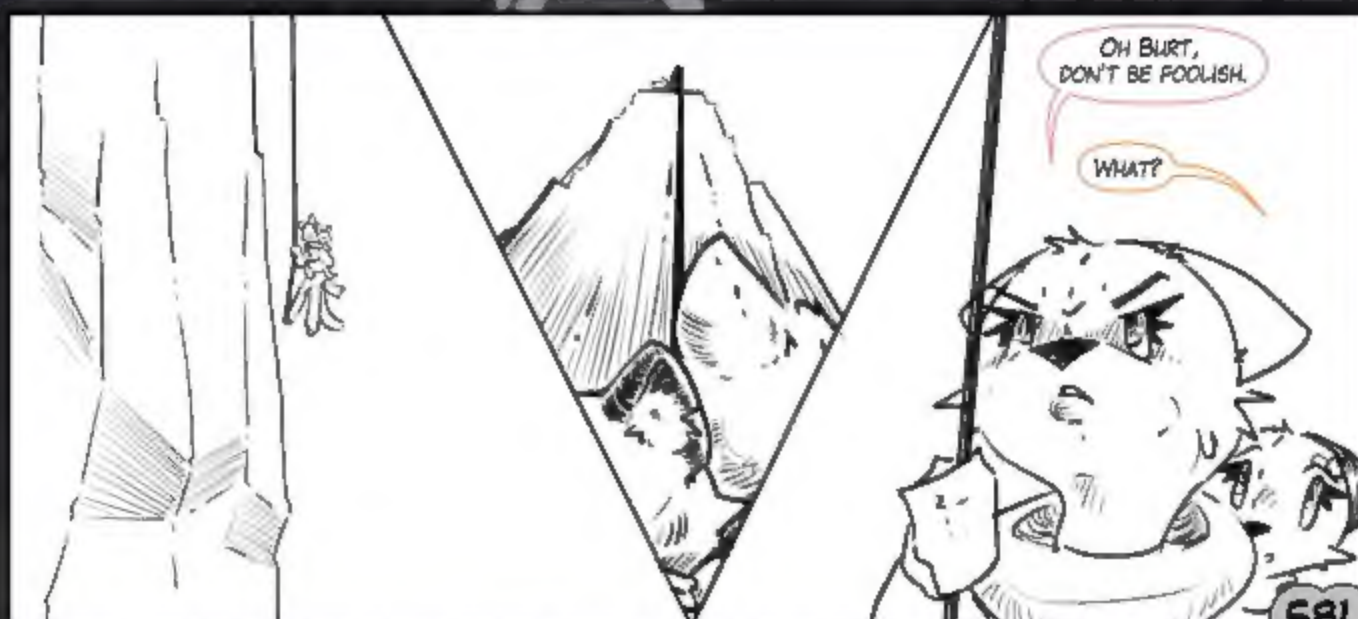
WHO IS THIS?
I DON'T KNOW YOU,
YOU AIN'T COMING UP!

YOU KNOW
DAMNED WELL WHO
IT IS, YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING
US FOR AT LEAST THE
LAST TWO MILES.

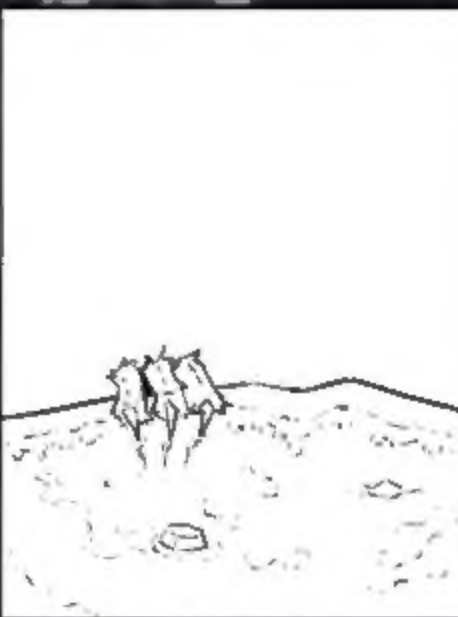
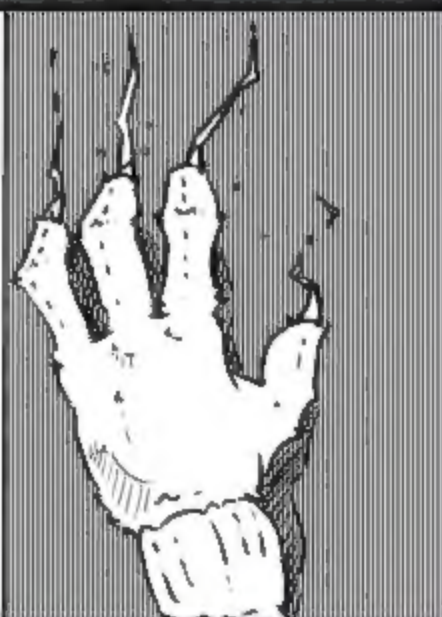
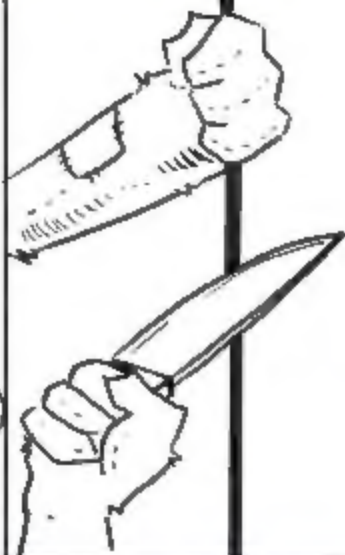
MAYBE I WAS,
MAYBE I WASN'T,
WHAT DO YOU WANT
YOU MANGY BAG
OF FLEAS?

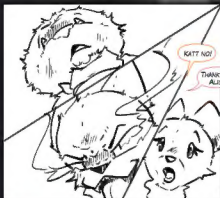
SEND DOWN
A WAY UP. BECAUSE
IF I HAVE TO CLIMB ALL
THE WAY UP THERE I WILL
NOT BE HAPPY WHEN
I REACH THE TOP.

BURT!



HANG ONTO
ME ALICE HONEY.





KATT NO!

THANK YOU
ALICE.



WHAT THE HELL
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE
DOING ENDANGERING A CHILD'S
LIFE LIKE THAT?

I CAME UP HERE
TO TALK PEACEABLY, EVEN
TOLD COLE TO WAIT DOWN THERE.
AND YOU GO AND CUT THE
DAMNED ROPE!

I OUGHT TO TAKE
YOU BACK DOWN THERE
AND LET COLE ASK YOU
HIS QUESTIONS.

NO! I PANICKED.
I'VE BEEN ALONE UP
HERE FOR YEARS AND THEN
YOU SHOW UP WITH COLE IN
TOWN OUT OF THE BLUE.

I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO. I DIDN'T
KNOW IF YOU WERE WITH COLE
OR NOT. THAT MAN IS OUT
TO KILL ME.



THEN TRY
TO KILL HIM
NEXT TIME.

LET'S MAKE
THIS QUICK.

WHAT DO
YOU NEED?



COORDINATES
DECRYPTED AND
A MAP.